

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Dimitar Stoyanov, Desislav Chukolov and Slavi Binev

on the protection of the EU's external border against poaching and other economic infringements

Lapse date: 4.12.2008

Written declaration on the protection of the EU's external border against poaching and other economic infringements

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas after the enlargement of 1 January 2007 Bulgaria, as a newly acceded state, assumed responsibility for guarding part of the EU's external border,
 - B. whereas Turkish fishing vessels regularly enter Bulgarian, hence European, territorial waters with the intention of fishing illegally,
 - C. whereas the Bulgarian, hence the European, sea border is vulnerable to illegal trafficking in human beings and drugs from Asia to the EU as well as to other economic crimes,
 - D. whereas on 17 April 2008 Bulgarian border police officers were attacked by the crew of a Turkish ship engaged in illegal fishing while attempting to arrest it, which resulted in an attacker's death,
 - E. whereas, following the incident, criminal proceedings have been instigated against the Bulgarian police officer Mihail Tsonkov,
1. Considers that the protection of the EU's territory and borders against various infringements like poaching, illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and drugs, etc. is a major responsibility of the Member States situated along the EU's external border;
 2. Considers that these Member States' border authorities must be confident in their powers with respect to border protection;
 3. With regard to the previous paragraph, strongly condemns the criminal proceedings against Mihail Tsonkov for his having fulfilled his professional duty;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the government of Turkey and the governments of the Member States.