

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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22.9.2008

0073/2008

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jean-Claude Martinez

on respect for the dignity and fundamental rights of former FARC hostages in Colombia, such as the soldier Tito Velásquez

Lapse date: 15.1.2009

**0073/2008**

**Written declaration on respect for the dignity and fundamental rights of former FARC hostages in Colombia, such as the soldier Tito Velásquez**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to its previous statements condemning hostage-taking and terrorism,
- B. whereas Tito Velásquez, a soldier in the Colombian army who was held hostage for three years by the FARC, finds himself, since his release, in the incredible situation of being a 'cartonero' in Bogota, able to survive only by going through dustbins after the Colombian authorities found him no longer fit to be a soldier and refused him a pension,
- C. whereas this former soldier's plight is not only shockingly unjust but also flies in the face of the fundamental rights on which the European Union insists in the agreements that it concludes, inter alia with Latin American countries,
  1. Calls on the French Presidency of the Council to show the same respect for the dignity of this former hostage as it did for that of another former hostage, who is also a Colombian national;
  2. Suggests that, with a view to finding a just solution, the Council Presidency might see fit to send the former hostage Ingrid Betancourt, who must be more than willing to come to the aid of a brother in misfortune with whom she shared the same social status while in captivity, to meet the Colombian authorities in a capacity as EU plenipotentiary minister for human rights;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the parliaments of the Member States, the Council and the Commission.