

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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8.10.2008

0081/2008

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Frank Vanhecke and Koenraad Dillen

on Jordan's request for the surrender of European citizens for criticising Islam

Lapse date: 22.1.2009

**0081/2008**

**Written declaration on Jordan's request for the surrender of European citizens for criticising Islam**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Jordan wishes to prosecute a Danish cartoonist, ten Danish journalists and the Dutch MP Geert Wilders on charges of ‘blasphemy, contempt for Islam and the feelings of Muslims, and defamation of the Prophet Muhammad’,
- B. whereas Jordan has requested Interpol to detain the people in question and bring them before a Jordanian court,
- C. whereas this action by Jordan sets a dangerous precedent which threatens the freedom of movement and the right to freedom of expression for anyone participating, or wishing to participate, in the public debate on Islam,
  1. Highlights the dangers of the international forum shopping which may arise as a result of Jordan's request;
  2. Urges the Member States of the European Union not to comply with Jordan's request to surrender European citizens to Interpol;
  3. Calls for mutual respect, but reiterates that the right to free expression is essential and non-negotiable for a democratic state based on the rule of law;
  4. Condemns the criminalisation of opinions, even where these may be felt to be disturbing, and recalls that there can be no such thing as ‘the right not to be insulted’;
  5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Government of Jordan and the Member States of the European Union, the Council and the Commission.