

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mikel Irujo Amezaga, Ines Ayala Sender

on the universal adoption of the Zaragoza Charter as a demonstration of support for water

Lapse date: 22.1.2009

0085/2008

Written declaration on the universal adoption of the Zaragoza Charter as a demonstration of support for water

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Zaragoza International Exhibition on the topic of "Water and sustainable development" and its Water Tribune constituted the largest exercise ever held to discuss water and sustainability, involving experts and representatives of public authorities and civil society from across the globe,
- B. whereas the EU played a leading role through the intensity and quality of the contributions and exchanges in which it was involved alongside the Member States and the various experts taking part,
- C. whereas the outcome of these discussions, the Zaragoza Charter, contains a number of universal recommendations aimed at all public authorities, users of water and citizens to tackle the challenges of managing a limited resource against a backdrop of accelerated development, Man-made problems, threats to the environment and climate change, promoting sustainable water management, which requires support from Community legislation and policies in this field and serves as a valuable model applicable to EU development cooperation policy,
 1. Calls on the European Union and its Member States to formally adopt the Zaragoza Charter as the reference model for the formulation and application of sustainable water management policies in their respective areas of competence.
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, and the Member States.