

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marco Cappato, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Thomas Mann, Charles Tannock  
and Helga Trüpel

on restoring NTDTV Television broadcasts to China via Eutelsat

Lapse date: 22.1.2009

**Written declaration on restoring NTDTV Television broadcasts to China via Eutelsat**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, signed and proclaimed on 7 December 2000, which defends the freedom and pluralism of the media,
  - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU is based upon and defined by its adherence to the principles of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law,
- B. whereas freedom of speech, particularly that of the media, including the Internet, is heavily restricted in China,
- C. whereas NTDTV is a non-profit television broadcaster and is the only independent Chinese-language television to broadcast into China since 2004,
- D. whereas Eutelsat suspended NTDTV's broadcasts into China as of 16 June 2008, a few weeks before the Olympic Games, citing technical reasons, and provided no other explanation,
1. Urges Eutelsat to resume NTDTV transmission to China without delay and to provide reasons for this suspension;
  2. Calls on the Commission and Member States to take the necessary action to help restore NTDTV's broadcasts to China and to support access to uncensored information for millions of Chinese citizens;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.