

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 upsurge in ethnic hatred against Bulgarians in Bulgaria

Lapse date: 7.5.2009

Written declaration on the upsurge in ethnic hatred against Bulgarians in Bulgaria

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. concerned at the appearance of racist graffiti, during the night of 8 January 2009, on the walls of four schools in the city of Burgas, calling for ‘Death to the Giaours’ and ‘Bulgarians for the mincer’,
- B. whereas *Giaour* is a pejorative Turkish term meaning ‘infidel’, ‘half-man’, ‘man-beast’ or ‘non-Turk’,
- C. whereas this is not the first instance of exhortations to violence against the Christian Bulgarian population; whereas on 16 August 2007 a crowd of several hundred Roma, carrying weapons, also called for ‘Death to Bulgarians’ in the centre of the Bulgarian capital, Sofia,
- D. whereas aggressive Islamist fundamentalism is continuing to gain momentum; whereas Turkey funds Islamist groups in Bulgaria,
- 1. Strongly condemns any form of racism, particularly against European Union citizens in their own country;
- 2. Calls on the competent Bulgarian authorities to take appropriate measures, in line with the existing legislation, against the perpetrators of these racist and xenophobic actions;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the governments and parliaments of the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Bulgaria.