

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

9.3.2009

0026/2009

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Grażyna Staniszevska, Hannu Takkula, Vasco Graça Moura

on a European Year of Neighbours' Languages

Lapse date: 7.5.2009

## Written declaration on a European Year of Neighbours' Languages

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission communication entitled 'Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment' (COM(2008)0566),
  - having regard to Decision No 1934/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 on the European Year of Languages 2001,
  - having regard to Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2005)3 of 2 February 2005 on teaching neighbouring languages in border regions,
  - having regard to its resolution of 15 November 2006 on a new framework strategy for multilingualism,
  - having regard to its resolution of 27 April 2006 on measures to promote multilingualism and language learning in the European Union: European Indicator of Language Competence,
  - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas communication and mutual understanding within the European Union clearly need to be improved,
- B. whereas good neighbourly relations at regional and supra-regional level are the cornerstone of peace and stability in the European Union,
- C. whereas dynamic, ever-closer regional cooperation in Europe is in many cases hampered by people's lack of familiarity with the languages and cultures of neighbouring states and regions,
- D. whereas mutual understanding and communication – and, thereby, Community cohesion – would be greatly enhanced by people learning the languages of their immediate neighbours,
- E. whereas projects and initiatives for reciprocal learning of neighbours' languages should be promoted and supported,
1. Calls for 2013 to be declared European Year of Neighbours' Languages, with the support of all the EU institutions;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission.