

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Koenraad Dillen and Frank Vanhecke

on the establishment of a day commemorating the victims of Islamist violence

Lapse date: 7.5.2009

0039/2009

Written declaration on the establishment of a day commemorating the victims of Islamist violence

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Parliament has rightly already taken a number of initiatives to commemorate appropriately the victims of totalitarian systems,
- B. whereas no hierarchy must be allowed to exist among the victims of totalitarian violence,
- C. whereas there is no point in commemorating the victims of defunct regimes such as Communism and National Socialism but at the same time ignoring those of a current totalitarian threat such as Islamism,
- D. whereas a condemnation of political Islam does not imply any condemnation of individual Muslims in Europe who abide by the rules, values and norms of a democracy where the rule of law prevails and for whom belief is a private matter,
- E. whereas totalitarian Islamism does not require less criticism but, on the contrary, requires more,
- F. whereas political Islam continues to affect many new victims worldwide, not only in and as a result of the action of Islamic States but also as a result of the action of terrorist organisations such as al-Qa'ida and its kindred spirits,
 1. Establishes a day commemorating the victims of Islamist violence, whether on 11 March, the date of the al-Qa'ida bombing in Madrid, 7 July, the date of the al-Qa'ida bombings in London, or 2 November, the date of the murder of the Dutch film director Theo van Gogh;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission.