

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Vladimír Železný

on boycotting the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial
Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Lapse date: 7.5.2009

Written declaration on boycotting the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly, Resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution on the World Conference against Racism in Durban from 2001,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 14 January 2009 on the development of the UN Human Rights Council, including the role of the EU,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to the draft resolution of the UN Human Rights Council at the conference in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, whose purpose is to review the progress made around the world in the fight against racism since the Durban conference in 2001,
- B. whereas the chief premise of this resolution on the existence of defamation of religion (Islam) as a legal concept is one-sided and runs counter to the definition of human rights,
- C. whereas some states are trying to insert into the draft outcome documents views equating Zionism with racism or asserting the supremacy of religion over the individual,
1. Affirms that there is a risk of repeated abuse of this conference as a platform for activities which seek to legitimise hatred and extremism under the guise of fighting racism;
 2. Stresses that the purpose of the conference is to investigate serious and pressing cases of racism and threats to human rights;
 3. Affirms that the United Nations is thereby risking its reputation as a force for promoting freedom and democracy;
 4. Calls on the EU to boycott the UN World Conference against Racism;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the European Commission and the Council.