



22.10.2012

0033/2012

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the threats to freedom of expression following the publication by the French weekly magazine 'Charlie Hebdo' of satirical cartoons depicting Mohammed

Mario Borghezio

Lapse date: 22.1.2013

0033/2012

Written declaration on the threats to freedom of expression following the publication by the French weekly magazine ‘Charlie Hebdo’ of satirical cartoons depicting Mohammed

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 2 and 6 of the Treaty of Lisbon,
 - having regard to Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the publication in the French weekly magazine ‘Charlie Hebdo’ of some satirical cartoons depicting Mohammed has given rise to a campaign of extremely serious threats by both public and private individuals with ties to Islamic countries and Islamic fundamentalism;
- B. whereas Islamic hackers managed to black out the magazine’s website;
- C. whereas violent demonstrations have taken place in many Islamic countries which forced the French Government to close its offices and other French establishments in 20 Muslim countries on Friday 21 September 2012, for fear of placing French citizens in danger;
1. Believes that the ‘case’ of the satirical cartoons published by ‘Charlie Hebdo’ comes within the bounds of the full and legitimate expression of the freedom to inform and employ satire, which is an inalienable value for the European Union and that every threat to this fundamental freedom should be fought and denounced;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the parliaments of the Member States.