WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Elspeth Attwooll, Ian Hudghton, David Martin, Alyn Smith
and Struan Stevenson

on the rights of foreign-language assistants – 'lettori' – in Italian universities

Lapse date: 12.12.2005
Written declaration on the rights of foreign-language assistants – 'lettori' – in Italian universities

The European Parliament,
- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
A. whereas foreign-language university assistants – 'lettori' – have for many years been seeking equality of treatment under EU single market rules,
B. whereas the European Parliament adopted resolutions on 13 July 1995, 15 February 1996 and 27 October 2002 concerning discrimination based on nationality in Italian universities,
C. whereas the European Court of Justice has ruled on discrimination concerning 'lettori' in the following cases:
   - Allué v University of Venice, 30 May 1989 (33/88),
   - Allué II v University of Venice, 2 August 1993 (C-259/91),
   - David Petrie and others v University of Verona, 20 November 1997 (C-90/96),
D. whereas on 26 June 2001 the Court of Justice ruled in Case C-212/99 (Commission v Italy) that Italy had failed to uphold its treaty obligations with regard to Allué II (C-259/91),
E. whereas on 30 April 2004 the Commission brought an action before the Court of Justice seeking daily fines of € 309 750 on the grounds that Italy had failed to uphold its treaty obligations with regard to the transposition of the judgment in Case C-212/99,
1. Calls on the Commission to investigate complaints that Italy has failed to change the discriminatory practices with regard to access to teaching posts following Case C-90/96 and to start infringement proceedings against Italy should those complaints prove to be well-founded;
2. Calls on its President to raise with the Council, as a matter of urgency, the long-standing discrimination against non-Italian 'lettori' working in Italian universities;
3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.