EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Alexander Alvaro, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Frédérique Ries, Catherine Stihler and Helga Trüpel

on holding all European Parliament plenary sessions in Brussels

Lapse date: 15.1.2009

0075/2008

Written declaration on holding all European Parliament plenary sessions in Brussels

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas holding 12 part-sessions per year in Strasbourg is increasingly problematic for all the institutions, embassies, NGOs and journalists, who incur cost and inconvenience in the monthly move, in addition to generating an estimated 20 000 tonnes of annual CO_2 emissions,

B. whereas, especially since the enlargement of the EU, the logistical and infrastructural challenges, both in Strasbourg and in getting there, have increased,

C. whereas Parliament has all the necessary facilities in Brussels, where it works for three weeks out of four in committee and group meetings as well as plenary sessions,

D. whereas the use of the Strasbourg buildings for just 48 days per year therefore represents a considerable waste and is perceived as such by the public,

E. whereas the Commission and the Council, with which Parliament interacts daily, are based in Brussels,

F. whereas the decision on the seats of the European institutions lies with the Member States,

G. whereas the city of Strasbourg has made significant efforts to welcome the European institutions and should receive compensation in the event of Parliament's sessions being held in Brussels,

1. Calls on the Member States to amend the Protocol on the location of the seats of the institutions in order to allow the Parliament to hold all its sessions in Brussels;

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the other EU institutions and the Member States, and actively to promote this solution.

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