

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Esther de Lange, Ivo Belet, Niels Busk, Esther Herranz García and
Catherine Stihler

on excessive pressure to be extremely thin

Lapse date: 26.3.2009

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Written declaration on excessive pressure to be extremely thin

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 152 of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to its resolution on the White Paper on nutrition, overweight and obesity related health issues,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas a study by Optenet shows that websites with pro-anorexia and pro-bulimia content have increased by 470% to 1 583 sites between 2006 and 2007,
- B. whereas such sites have a clear cross-border character, as illustrated by the website www.pro-ana.be, which is hosted in Belgium and has an average of 40,000 visitors per month of which the majority are Dutch,
- C. whereas France outlaws incitement to excessive thinness, including websites and blogs with pro-anorexia and pro-bulimia content, which could expose someone to a risk of death or endanger his or her health,
1. Calls on the Commission and Council to:
- give more attention to eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia, in their policies and measures in the area of food and health,
 - monitor the existing measures in the Member States which aim to fight incitement to excessive thinness,
 - draw up statistics on the presence of anorexia and bulimia in the Member States,
 - explore whether EU-wide measures against incitement to excessive thinness are required and possible, e.g. a code of conduct or possible ban on pro-anorexia and pro-bulimia websites;
2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.