

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Vittorio Agnoletto, Josep Borrell Fontelles, Monica Frassoni, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou and Graham Watson

on a European Mafia Victims' Memorial Day and on reuse for social purposes of goods and money seized from international criminal organisations

Lapse date: 2.4.2009

Written declaration on a European Mafia Victims' Memorial Day and on reuse for social purposes of goods and money seized from international criminal organisations

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas mafias and organised crime in general have become a transnational phenomenon and constitute an extreme emergency in all Member States,
 - B. having regard to the social, cultural, economic, and political impact that criminal organisations are having on Member States and neighbouring countries,
 - C. whereas, if it is to be truly effective, the fight against organised crime also has to be waged at the social level, in cooperation between civil society and democratic institutions,
 - D. whereas some Member States have built up significant funds of experience in the form of joint action by civil society and democratic institutions, which has produced ground-breaking legislation, particularly as regards enabling the assets of organised criminals to be seized and used for social purposes, and whereas organised criminals are increasingly also operating in countries bordering on the EU,
1. Calls for 21 March to be declared 'European Mafia Victims' Memorial Day – Anti-Mafia Action Day';
 2. Calls on the Commission and Council to devote that day to awareness-raising initiatives in Member States, to be pursued in cooperation with civil society and national, regional, and local authorities;
 3. Calls on the Commission and Council to pass the legislation required to enable property and money seized from international criminal organisations to be reused for social purposes;
 4. Calls on the Commission and Council to act as prime movers and support civil society and institutions in their efforts to fight Mafia-like crime syndicates;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and candidate countries.