

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Zuzana Roithová, Genowefa Grabowska, Françoise Grossetête, Amalia Sartori

on European standards for children's footwear

Lapse date: 7.5.2009

0032/2009

Written declaration on European standards for children's footwear

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Written Question E-2784/05 of 26 July 2005 by Zuzana Roithová, on the availability of healthy children's footwear,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Parliament has warned about the shortage of healthy footwear for children in the EU,
 - B. whereas the increase in irreversible orthopaedic defects amongst children is alarming,
 - C. whereas scientific studies clearly point to the link between irreversible orthopaedic defects and unsuitable children's footwear (99 % of children are born with healthy feet, but by the age of six a third have defects caused by shoddy footwear),
 - D. whereas some Member States have had to abolish mandatory certification for children's footwear as a result of joining the EU and studies have shown a direct connection between that abolition and the growth of orthopaedic defects amongst children,
 - E. whereas voluntary certification and other forms of health warning are not effective and healthy footwear is increasingly expensive and unaffordable for most families,
 - F. whereas the situation has got worse since the abolition of quotas for the import of textile and leather goods from Asia,
1. Considers that the Commission, Council and Member States have a duty to intervene in the interest of consumer protection by taking the following measures:
 - drawing up common minimum standards throughout Europe on chemical and orthopaedic criteria for the manufacture of footwear for children up to 15 years of age,
 - establishing common standards for all children's footwear and thus creating an adequate supply of footwear that is not harmful and is reasonably priced,
 - supporting awareness-raising programmes for parents and retailers;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.