

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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17.11.2008

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by María Badía i Cutchet, Katerina Batzeli, Manolis Mavrommatis, Hannu Takkula and Mikel Irujo Amezaga

on establishing a European Sports Day

Lapse date: 12.3.2009

**0100/2008**

**Written declaration on establishing a European Sports Day**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the White Paper on Sports,
  - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas sport makes an important contribution to the European Union's strategic objectives of solidarity and prosperity,
- B. whereas sport promotes the active contribution of EU citizens to society and contributes to personal development, without discriminating on any grounds,
- C. whereas a lack of physical exercise can lead to an increase in obesity and chronic illnesses, especially among children,
- D. whereas the Olympic ideal of developing sport to promote peace and understanding among nations and cultures was born in Europe,
- E. whereas the European Year of Education through Sport 2004, aimed at improving the partnership between the worlds of education and sport, was successful,
1. Underlines the role of sport in the social, cultural, health and educational fields, and considers that it is an excellent instrument of social cohesion in Europe;
  2. Highlights the fact that sport can also contribute to dealing with new threats and challenges emerged in European society;
  3. Proposes that the Commission establish an annual European Sports Day on 14 May, to commemorate the first time that women participated in the Olympic Games (1900 Paris Summer Olympics) as a signal of the equality that sport should promote in all areas;
  4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the parliaments and governments of the Member States.