

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Johan Van Hecke, Gabriele Zimmer, Ana Maria Gomes, Anders Wijkman
and Hélène Flautre

on impunity of alleged perpetrators of genocide

Lapse date: 11.10.2007

0059/2007

Written declaration on impunity of alleged perpetrators of genocide

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the annual human rights report of the European Parliament,
- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Parliament increasingly and quite correctly positions itself as the watchdog of democratic values and human rights in the world,
- B. whereas impunity for serious human rights violations is totally unacceptable,
- 1. Points out that, according to NGO reports, at least 37 Rwandan genocide suspects benefit from impunity within Europe;
- 2. Points out that universal jurisdiction is a viable tool with which to ensure accountability;
- 3. Regrets that gaps in the national legislation of some Member States and a lack of practical commitment prevent the prosecution of perpetrators of genocide;
- 4. Calls on the Council and the Commission to increase their commitment to the fight against impunity and to further cooperation among Member States in order to ensure accountability for perpetrators of genocide;
- 5. Calls on the Member State governments to comply with obligations under international law, so that perpetrators of serious international crimes can be brought to justice in Europe;
- 6. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.