

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

18 June 2003

13/2003

WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jonathan Evans, John Bowis, Christopher Heaton-Harris,
Philip Bradbourn and Neil Parish

on the seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg

Expiry date: 18 September 2003

PE 333.618
Or. en

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. recognising the waste of financial resources incurred by European taxpayers as a result of the European Parliament's having seats in both Brussels and Strasbourg,
- B. whereas enlargement will increase the number of Members of the European Parliament and therefore increase travel to and from Parliament's two seats,
- C. whereas an increase in the number of Members of the European Parliament will also bring a further increase in the numbers of assistants and staff working at the European Parliament and accordingly the number of people travelling between Brussels and Strasbourg,
- D. having regard to the major difficulty experienced in travelling to Strasbourg,
- E. recognising, by comparison, the relative ease of access to Brussels,
- F. recognising the treaty obligation to hold twelve part-sessions of the European Parliament per annum in Strasbourg but also recognising that Governments of Member States will soon undertake a revision of the treaties in the upcoming Intergovernmental Conference in order to ensure that the European Parliament is organised and administered in accordance with the needs of European citizens,
- 1. Calls on Member States to re-examine, as a priority, the issue of two separate seats and to bring forward proposals for making Brussels the permanent and only seat.