EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004

2009

21.2.2005   0007/2005

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marie Anne Isler Béguin and Milan Horáček

on the automatic legitimacy of the EU candidacy of the EU's European 'New Neighbours'

Lapse date: 21.5.2005

0007/2005

Written declaration on the automatic legitimacy of the EU candidacy of the EU's European 'New Neighbours'

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. noting the recent democratic presidential elections held in 'New Neighbour' countries such as Georgia and Ukraine, which seek and demand integration into the European Community and have made this a priority and driving force of their policies,

B. acknowledging that the prospect of accession provides both stimulus and support for the various transitions taking place in countries which were already candidates or are potential candidates, and whereas this prospect is a catalyst for the hopes and efforts of their pro-European democratic political parties, which face frequently difficult national political contexts,

C. having regard to Article 49 of the EU Treaty which opens the principle of accession to any European state, to Article -1 §2 of the draft European Constitution, and to the still open issue of Europe's frontiers,

1. Calls on the Commission:

   - to extend and support the momentum of and efforts to achieve socio-economic, political and environmental transitions to Community standards within the European 'New Neighbours" states, since these transitions benefit the whole of Europe,

   - to give official expression to the automatic legitimacy of the EU candidacy of these European New Neighbours',

   - to amend the 'New Neighbourhood' proposal accordingly;

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission, the Member States and the European New Neighbours: Georgia, Ukraine, Moldavia, Belarus, Armenia and Azerbaïjan.

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