



4.11.2009

0059/2009

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on declaring 9 November, 'European Day of Reconciliation' on the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall

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**Written declaration on declaring 9 November, ‘European Day of Reconciliation’ on the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the next 9 November will mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall,
- B. recalling the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe who fought for their basic human rights and freedom in Hungary (1956), Czechoslovakia (1968) and Poland (1980),
- C. recalling that 20 years ago, 2 million people from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia stood together to express their solidarity towards their Eastern friends, calling for independence and condemning the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact,
- D. whereas the destruction of the wall represents one of the symbols of the European people’s liberation from totalitarianism and Communist regimes as well as the desire for democracy for oppressed populations,
- E. whereas the fall of the Iron Curtain has unified the two blocs of Europe that were divided previously between freedom and dictatorship,
- F. whereas a shared historical memory is needed in order not to repeat past mistakes,
- 1. Proposes to declare 9 November as ‘European Day of Reconciliation’ and invites the Commission and the Council to sign a joint declaration in the context of the 20th anniversary celebrations;
- 2. Calls for initiatives to be promoted in the Member States on that day, aimed at raising the awareness of European citizens, particularly among youth, of the values of democracy and freedom, while underlining in an impartial manner the ill-fated effects of past and present totalitarian regimes;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.