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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Elizabeth Lynne, Jamila Madeira and Frieda Brepoels

on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza

Lapse date: 25.9.2008

0047/2008

Written declaration on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the Middle East and in particular those of 1 June 2006 on the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories and the role of the Union, of 11 October 2007 on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and of 21 February 2008 on the situation in the Gaza Strip,
 - having regard to the Quartet Statement of 23 September 2007,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas as a result of the severe restrictions on the movement of people and goods, the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip has reached a catastrophic level, as reported by United Nations bodies,
- B. whereas the health system is under severe pressure and a significant proportion of the population is suffering from a lack of urgently needed treatment and medicines,
- C. whereas the current situation in Gaza amounts to arbitrary collective punishment of an entire civilian population, prohibited under Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention,
1. Calls on the international community to uphold its responsibilities in protecting civilians in times of conflict, help create social and economic stability in Gaza and improve the security of its inhabitants as a matter of urgency;
 2. Calls for scrupulous adherence to human rights and international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, in the area and calls on all sides to renounce violence;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, the Council, the Commission and relevant governments.