

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Elizabeth Lynne, Jean Lambert, Edit Bauer and Evangelia Tzampazi

on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Lapse date: 26.2.2008

0101/2007

Written declaration on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the first human rights treaty of the 21st Century, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its Optional Protocol opened for signature on 30 March 2007, with 82 signatories on the first day, yet to date only three countries have ratified the Convention and Optional Protocol,
- B. whereas a disability exists if essential personal and social experiences are influenced by physical and mental limitations and the discrimination resulting from them,
- C. whereas there are more than 50 million disabled people in the European Union,
 1. Urges every EU Member State to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and to encourage third countries to do likewise;
 2. Urges the Commission and all Member States to embrace the 'nothing about us, without us' principle, and to work with disabled people to implement the Convention;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.