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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on forced labour in Chinese prisons

Lapse date: 15.9.2006

0040/2006

Written declaration on forced labour in Chinese prisons

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas forced labour goes against fundamental labour rights as laid down by the International Labour Organisation (ILO),
 - B. whereas the Laogai is a vast prison labour system in China, used by the Chinese government as a tool for political suppression of pro-democracy activists, internet dissidents, labour activists, and religious and spiritual believers,
 - C. whereas fifty million people have suffered as prisoners in the Laogai, where they have been beaten, tortured, and often killed, since its inception,
 - D. whereas, in its resolution on prospects for trade relations between the EU and China (2005/2015(INI)), Parliament called on China to take effective and swift action against the use of forced labour and asked the Commission to offer the Chinese its support in this connection,
1. Calls on the European Commission and the Council to:
 - (a) condemn the Laogai, the system of forced labour prison camps in China and to stress in their dialogue with China the importance of abolishing forced labour;
 - (b) urge the Chinese Government to sign and ratify the ILO Conventions on the abolition of forced labour (Conventions 29 and 105);
 - (c) fully implement trade laws that prohibit the importation of forced labour products made in the Laogai;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.