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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on the tsunami and the introduction of an international tax

Lapse date: 26.4.2005

0002/2005

Written declaration on the tsunami and the introduction of an international tax

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas terrible tsunamis have triggered a human catastrophe of considerable proportions in South-East Asia,
 - B. whereas this tragedy is certainly of natural origin, but its seriousness, weighty consequences and the difficulties to be overcome are greatly amplified by the under-development of the countries concerned,
 - C. whereas besides the massive aid that the international community and the European Union must mobilise to ensure the survival of communities, their return to a proper life and the reconstruction of the regions concerned, lasting solutions must be proposed to combat this under-development,
 - D. whereas continuous and substantial international financing must be guaranteed to assist in the development of the poorest countries and the most vulnerable communities,
 - E. whereas the commitments entered into by the richest countries since the Rio Summit are a long way from being met and there has even, in fact, been a reduction in the funding allocated,
 - 1. Calls for the introduction of an international tax to assist in the development of poor countries;
 - 2. Considers that this tax could be levied on transfers of capital;
 - 3. Considers that these levies should feed into an international fund which initially might be used, in part, for reconstruction of the regions affected by the tsunamis and natural disasters, but also with an eye to prevention and the development of those communities in greatest difficulty;
 - 4. Calls on the European Commission to bring forward without delay a proposal for the creation of this international tax and the embedding of this approach at European Union level;
 - 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.