

[20.04.2006]

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# **WRITTEN DECLARATION**

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Carl Schlyter, Paulo Casaca, Caroline Lucas

on **banning seal products in the European Union**

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## Written declaration on banning seal products in the European Union

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas more than one and a half million harp seal pups have been slaughtered in the North West Atlantic over the last four years and that the vast majority of these animals were less than three months old,
- B. whereas the last time the annual number of seals now being killed were slaughtered in the 1950s and 1960s the seal population was reduced by two thirds,
- C. whereas, on average, sealers receive less than 5% of their income from sealing which provides only a few days work each year,
- D. whereas a team of international veterinarians concluded that 42% of the slaughtered seals they examined may have been skinned whilst still conscious,
- E. whereas the import of whitecoat harp seal and blueback hooded seal furs and furskin products was banned within the EEC in 1983 (83/129/EEC) the sealers now wait a few days until the harp seal pups have moulted and the products of these animals are still imported into the European Union,
- F. whereas a number of EU countries (Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy) have already taken steps to ban the trade in seal products and others (the UK, the Netherlands) are considering action,
- G. whereas the USA, Mexico and Croatia have banned the trade in seal products
- H. whereas the Council of Europe is currently considering a motion that calls for a ban on the import and use of seals and seal parts,

1. Requests the European Commission to immediately draft a regulation to ban the import, export and sales of all harp and hooded seal products.

2. This regulation should not have an impact on traditional Inuit seal hunting which however only corresponds to 3% of the current hunt.

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.