

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Emine Bozkurt, Claude Moraes, Christopher Heaton-Harris, Cem Özdemir
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on tackling racism in football

Lapse date: 1.3.2006

Written declaration on tackling racism in football

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. recognising the serious incidents of racism that have occurred in football matches across Europe,
- B. whereas one of the objectives pursued by the European Union under Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community is protection against discrimination based on ethnicity and nationality,
- C. whereas football players, like other workers, have the right to a racism-free working environment, as set down in the case-law of the European Court of Justice,
- D. whereas football's popularity offers a new opportunity to tackle racism,
 1. Strongly condemns all forms of racism at football matches, both on and off the field;
 2. Commends the excellent work that organisations, including UEFA and FARE, have done in tackling these problems;
 3. Calls on all those with a high profile in football to speak out regularly against racism;
 4. Calls on national football associations, leagues, clubs, players' unions and supporters' groups to apply UEFA best practice, such as the UEFA Ten-Point Plan of Action;
 5. Calls on UEFA and all other competition organisers in Europe to ensure that referees have the option, according to clear and strict guidelines, to stop or abandon matches in the event of serious racist abuse;
 6. Calls on UEFA and all other competition organisers in Europe to consider the option of imposing sporting sanctions on national football associations and clubs whose supporters or players commit serious racist offences, including the option to remove persistent offenders from their competitions;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Governments of the Member States.