

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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13.10.2004

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Emma Bonino, Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Bronisław Geremek, João de Deus Pinheiro and Michel Rocard

on the decision to be taken by the European Council in December 2004 on the opening of negotiations with Turkey

Lapse date: 13.1.2005

**Written declaration on the decision to be taken by the European Council in December 2004 on the opening of negotiations with Turkey**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - A. whereas on 17 and 18 December 2004, following the Commission opinion, the European Council will be called upon to determine whether and when to open negotiations with Turkey, with a view to its accession to the European Union.
  - B. whereas Turkey is the country with the longest-running candidature and has undertaken decisive steps within the last two years to align its governance, legislation and economy with the Copenhagen criteria,
  - C. whereas, while additional reforms are needed, a clear and unequivocal signal to the institutional interlocutors and the people of Turkey is desirable and necessary in order to support and reinforce current reforms,
  - D. whereas the decision on the formal opening of accession negotiations is of the greatest importance, not only for the aspirations and legitimate expectations of the Turkish people and institutions, but also for South-Eastern Europe and the Middle East, including the European Union's role in this region,
1. Solemnly requests the Heads of State or Government meeting at the European Council in December to pronounce themselves in favour of the opening without delay of negotiations for Turkey's accession to the European Union, in accordance with the Copenhagen decision of December 2002;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the governments of the Member States.