

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SEAL

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on telephone tapping

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights, which both emphasize the principle of respect for private life,
 - noting that modern technology and the increase of police powers to combat terrorism have combined to greatly increase the frequency of telephone tapping, while at the same time reducing democratic surveillance over its operation,
 - noting that in certain Community countries national legislation protects citizens against abuse of the State's power to tap telephones and ensure observance of the European Convention of Human Rights and control by national parliaments,
1. Is of the opinion that it is urgently necessary for Member States to agree at the highest level statutory provisions for the protection of the citizen against telephone tapping and will ensure the fullest possible degree of democratic surveillance over the tapping of telephones by State agencies;
 2. Calls on the appropriate Committee of the Parliament to prepare a report on telephone tapping and the protection of the private lives of citizens;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Communities and to the governments of the Member States.