

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76) 374 final.

Bruxelles, 27 October 1976.

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Common Declaration by the European Parliament, the Council and  
the Commission concerning the respect of Human Rights.

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The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission,

Whereas the Treaties establishing the European Communities require their institutions to respect the law,

Whereas, as the Court of Justice has recognized, this law contains, not merely the rules embodied in the Treaties and the secondary legislation of the Community but also the general principles of law and, in particular, those fundamental human and civil rights which are recognized and protected in the Member States;

Whereas, moreover, all the Member States are Contracting Parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed in Rome on 4 November 1950 and the rules of the Convention constitute general principles of law common to the Member States;

Desiring to proclaim their attachment to the respect of human rights,

HAVE ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

In the exercise of their powers and in the pursuit of the objectives of the European Communities, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission will respect the fundamental human and civil rights embodied in the constitutions of the Member States, the general principles of law and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.