Dangers of fundamentalism

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The committee adopted the draft report prepared by Airie OOSTLANDER (EEP, NL) on the dangers of religious fanaticism. The Report looks at the different forms of religious fanaticism in the European Union and puts forward a number of political proposals. The Rapporter believes that the far reaching effects of religious fundementalism is an international phenomena and that the Community must support the fight against it. He recommends the establishment of a common foreign policy which would fight unequivocally in favour of democracy, the state of law, and human rights. The policy would not then provoke undesirable anti-western reactions, nor would it stir up religious fundementalism as was unfortunately done by European policy towards the war in Bosnia. Committee members recommended that the Union adopt a preventive policy against all forms of violent religious fundementalism. Finally they considered it necessary to adopt a positive policy towards religious minorities so as to facilitate their access to work and participation in professional and political organisations. Dialogue between national or European authorities and religious minorities should be encouraged.