



7.9.2015

0030/2015

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the rights of cancer patients

**Elisabetta Gardini (PPE), Miroslav Mikolášik (PPE),
Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (PPE), Françoise Grossetête (PPE),
Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL), David Borrelli (EFDD),
Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD), Simona Bonafè (S&D), José Inácio Faria
(ALDE), Luigi Morgano (S&D), Francesc Gambús (PPE), Eleonora Evi
(EFDD), Marlene Mizzi (S&D), Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D),
Kateřina Konečná (GUE/NGL), Roberta Metsola (PPE),
Cristian-Silviu Buşoi (PPE), Philippe De Backer (ALDE)**

Lapse date: 7.12.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the rights of cancer patients¹

1. EU citizens affected by cancer face a paradox: for the first time, there are several promising and effective treatments, yet patients do not have access to them owing to delays in the drug reimbursement process at national level and to unacceptable shortages of essential life-saving drugs, with the result that their health deteriorates.
2. European hospital pharmacists have reported instances of chemotherapy treatment being interrupted or delayed owing to medicine shortages.
3. Delays and disparities in reimbursement are largely the result of a fragmented system. This is particularly true for health technology assessments (HTAs) in respect of pricing and reimbursement, which are conducted separately by the 28 Member States.
4. Accordingly, the Commission and the Council are called upon to:
 - a) undertake market research in order to improve their understanding of the scale of shortages and its causes (parallel trade, quotas and other supply chain responses, etc.);
 - b) collect and publish data on supply shortages in a public document;
 - c) strengthen cooperation among the Member States' national HTA bodies;
 - d) undertake research, in partnership with European health stakeholders and patients, on possible scenarios for the creation of a European HTA reference assessment.
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.