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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on increasing citizens' awareness in relation to the EU directive on cross-border healthcare

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Lapse date: 9.8.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on increasing citizens' awareness in relation to the EU directive on cross-border healthcare¹

1. The aim of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive (CBHC Directive) is to provide all EU citizens with equal access to quality healthcare.
2. Under the CBHC Directive, patients have the right to receive medical treatment in a public or private facility in another EU Member State and have some or all of the costs refunded.
3. The Commission has acknowledged that EU citizens' awareness of their right to receive healthcare in another EU Member State remains low despite efforts to inform citizens of their healthcare rights under the CBHC Directive.
4. According to a report by the Commission, fewer than two in ten citizens feel they are informed about their rights under the CBHC Directive.
5. Accordingly, the Commission and the Council are called upon to:
 - a. scale up efforts to increase awareness among EU citizens of their right to receive healthcare in another EU Member State;
 - b. coordinate an information campaign across the EU to highlight the right of EU citizens to receive cross-border medical treatment;
 - c. pay special attention to those Member States where awareness of the CBHC Directive is particularly low.
6. 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.