



0069/2015

2.12.2015

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on access to hearing aids

Renate Sommer (PPE), Peter Liese (PPE), Ádám Kósa (PPE), Françoise Grossetête (PPE), Giovanni La Via (PPE), Glenis Willmott (S&D), Pavel Poc (S&D), James Nicholson (ECR), Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL), Gesine Meissner (ALDE)

Lapse date: 2.3.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on access to hearing aids¹

1. Approximately 10 % of the population of the European Union suffers from some form of hearing loss. This represents about 51 million Europeans.
2. Research suggests that citizens with hearing disabilities are at much greater risk of exclusion from society and the labour market. Furthermore, pupils with hearing disabilities continue to face greater difficulties in education.
3. Articles 5 and 26 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities state that discrimination on the basis of disability must be prohibited. Article 26 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights states that the Union recognises and respects the right of persons with disabilities to benefit from measures designed to ensure their independence and social and occupational integration.
4. The use of hearing aids is one of the most effective means of providing support for people who experience hearing loss. Hearing aids, together with compatible assistive listening devices, provide cost-effective access to education and as such to improved employment prospects.
5. The Commission and the Council are therefore called upon to foster cooperation and the exchange of best practices regarding the provision of state-funded access to hearing aids with a view to improving the lives of citizens suffering from hearing loss in the EU.
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.