

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mary Lou McDonald, Jacek Protasiewicz, Claude Moraes, Gérard Onesta
and Jean Marie Beaupuy

on ending street homelessness

Lapse date: 26.3.2008

Written declaration on ending street homelessness

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas homelessness was identified as a priority by the EPSCO Council in 2005, and is a priority under the 'active inclusion' strand of the EU social protection and inclusion strategy,
- B. whereas access to adequate housing is a fundamental human right and access to shelter often the first step towards adequate and sustainable housing solutions for people experiencing extreme poverty and exclusion,
- C. whereas every winter people freeze to death across the EU because of lack of emergency accommodation and outreach services catering for their needs,
- D. whereas street homelessness is the most visible form of homelessness, which can only be addressed effectively as part of a wider holistic strategy,
- E. whereas the European Parliament called twice for urgent action to tackle homelessness this year,
- 1. Calls on the Council to agree on an EU-wide commitment to end street homelessness by 2015;
- 2. Calls on the Commission to develop a European framework definition of homelessness, gather comparable and reliable statistical data, and provide annual updates on action taken and progress made in EU Member States towards ending homelessness;
- 3. Urges Member States to devise 'winter emergency plans' as part of a wider homelessness strategy;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, Commission and the Member States.