

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Catherine Stihler

on combating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Lapse date: 23.2.2007

**0084/2006**

**Written declaration on combating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) refers to a condition previously described as chronic bronchitis (inflammation and narrowing of the airways) and emphysema (weakening of the structure of the lung),
- B. whereas the term 'COPD' has not been widely used by health professionals and is generally not recognised by the public,
- C. whereas COPD is the only leading cause of death that is increasing worldwide, and whereas approximately 200 000-300 000 people die each year in Europe because of COPD,
- D. whereas the most important cause of COPD (in 90% of cases) is cigarette smoking,
  1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to list respiratory diseases (including COPD) under the major disease category in FP7;
  2. Urges the European Union (EU) to develop smoking cessation strategies; considers that further studies on the most effective smoking cessation intervention are required;
  3. Calls on the EU to facilitate long-term epidemiological studies of the frequency of, and mortality from, COPD;
  4. Urges the Commission to publish a Green Paper on indoor air under the Environment and Health Action Plan;
  5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.