

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

21 January 2000

1/2000

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mrs Françoise Grossetête

on eradicating pain

1/2000

Declaration on eradicating pain*The European Parliament,*

- whereas pain is a disease in its own right that adversely affects the quality of life of millions of people,
 - whereas the failure to tackle it is entailing a substantial social cost,
 - whereas the medical profession in European countries does not appear to be sufficiently well educated or informed about the problem,
 - whereas the medical profession has a range of treatments that can effectively relieve most types of acute or chronic pain,
 - whereas the use of morphine has proved its efficacy in the treatment of severe or persistent pain,
 - whereas other research avenues are being explored with the aim of gaining a clearer understanding of the processes involved in all kinds of pain and providing new remedies, whether in drug or other forms,
1. Calls on the Commission to support a European programme to eradicate pain and treat it as a public health priority;
 2. Calls on the Commission to increase the resources earmarked for pain research in Europe, including targeted treatment programmes;
 3. Calls on the Commission to begin consultations with a view to harmonising medical training to enable doctors to tackle pain more successfully;
 4. Calls on the Commission to harmonise the various European laws on drugs containing morphine so as to overcome misgivings about their use;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Commission.