

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Vittorio Agnoletto, Giovanni Berlinguer, Patrizia Toia, Pier Antonio Panzeri and Pia Elda Locatelli

on extending basic health benefits to all residents in Europe, including those not meeting entry and residence requirements

Lapse date: 16.4.2006

**Written declaration on extending basic health benefits to all residents in Europe, including those not meeting entry and residence requirements**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the right to health is a fundamental human right and whereas in Europe health benefits, including urgent or essential outpatient and inpatient care, should therefore be extended to all non-European nationals, including those whose papers are not in order,
- B. whereas Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain already some time ago passed laws and/or introduced procedures aimed at guaranteeing third country nationals, including those temporarily in contravention of rules relating to entry into and residence in the Member States, various forms of access to essential medical care,
- C. whereas this legislative framework only partly protects the rights of individuals in the Union and does not guarantee a uniform standard of services,
  1. Calls on the Commission to put forward an EU directive which, without undermining national responsibilities in this area, will specify the minimum health benefits to be guaranteed to foreigners, including those who do not have a valid residence permit;
  2. Calls on the committee responsible to organise a public hearing to monitor the relevant legislative situation in the various Member States in order to put forward proposals for 'upward harmonisation' of the relevant legislation;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.