

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Georgs Andrejevs

on high blood pressure

Lapse date: 14.9.2007

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Written declaration on high blood pressure

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the June 2004 Council Conclusions on heart health,
- A. whereas diseases of the heart and circulatory system account for 1.9 million deaths in the EU per year,
- B. whereas high blood pressure is a serious and progressive condition affecting approximately one billion people worldwide, with an expected increase of 60% by 2025,
- C. whereas the principal and serious effects of high blood pressure include debilitation, blindness and death from heart attack, stroke or kidney disease,
- D. whereas an EU high blood pressure strategy would help contain public health expenditure in EU Member States, seeing that such measures could result in millions of savings in terms of human and economic costs,
1. Calls on the Commission and Council to:
 - (a) make high blood pressure control an EU health priority, demonstrating the significant burden across the EU through impact reports such as the Global High Blood Pressure Impact report;
 - (b) encourage Member States to establish national plans to measure the impact of high blood pressure on human lives and healthcare costs;
 - (c) achieve EU-wide consensus on standard goals for managing high blood pressure;
 - (d) develop an EU strategy and draft an EU Council recommendation for cardiovascular disease prevention, diagnosis and control, including high blood pressure control;
 - (e) invest in prevention and education campaigns to encourage healthy lifestyles and healthy diets (weight loss, physical exercise, reduced salt/sugar intake, alcohol abuse and smoking cessation);
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.