

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Dariusz Maciej Grabowski, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Anna Záborská and
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on discrimination against multiple sclerosis sufferers in the new Member States
since the 2004 enlargement

Lapse date: 8.5.2008

0011/2008

Written declaration on discrimination against multiple sclerosis sufferers in the new Member States since the 2004 enlargement

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 18 December 2003 on discrimination against multiple sclerosis sufferers,
 - having regard to the European Code of Good Practice in MS presented at the conference in the European Parliament on 29 and 20 May 2007,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas 500 000 people suffer from multiple sclerosis in Europe, some 60 000 of whom live in Poland,
- B. whereas multiple sclerosis sufferers are discriminated against in the new Member States in the form of restricted access to immunomodulating drugs (in Lithuania 15% of patients, in Slovakia 5% and in Poland 2%; in Germany and Belgium some 35%), rehabilitation and essential specialist treatment,
- C. whereas, owing to poor quality care, the average life expectancy of multiple sclerosis sufferers in the new Member States is ten to twenty years lower than that of non-sufferers, and whereas there is no such disparity in the other Member States,
- D. whereas in 2003 Parliament adopted a resolution on equal treatment for sufferers in all the Member States, and whereas that resolution is not being fully complied with in the new Member States,
- E. having regard to the feeling of hopelessness among MS sufferers in the new Member States about any improvement in their quality of life,
1. Calls on the Commission and Council to address the issue of discrimination against MS sufferers in the new Member States at the earliest opportunity and to help improve their quality of life;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and Council and to the parliaments of the new Member States since the 2004 enlargement.