

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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9.4.2008

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marian Harkin, Gisela Kallenbach, Emmanouil Angelakas, Mieczyslaw Janowski and Joel Hasse Ferreira

on announcing 2011 as the European Year on Volunteering

Lapse date: 15.7.2008

**0030/2008**

**Written declaration on announcing 2011 as the European Year on Volunteering**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the report of the European Parliament on the contribution of volunteering to economic and social cohesion,
  - having regard to the Council resolution on voluntary activities of young people of 16 November, 2007,
  - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas there are more than 100 million Europeans of all ages, beliefs and nationalities who volunteer,
- B. whereas in 2006 a Eurobarometer survey revealed that 3 out of 10 Europeans claim to be active in a voluntary capacity and that close to 80% of respondents feel that voluntary activities are an important part of democratic life in Europe,
- C. whereas the voluntary sector contributes an estimated 5% to GDP of our national economies, and develops innovative actions to detect, voice and respond to needs arising in society,
- D. whereas the European Volunteer Centre, the European Youth Forum, the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations, the World Scouts Movement, the Red Cross/European Union Office, volunteurope, AGE, Solidar, Caritas Europa, ENGAGE, Johanniter International, the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation and others – all representing thousands of organisations involving millions of volunteers – have all called upon the European Institutions to announce 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering,
1. Calls upon the European Commission supported by all European Institutions to announce 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Council.