

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on fibromyalgia

Lapse date: 4.12.2008

Written declaration on fibromyalgia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas nearly 14 million persons in the EU and 1 to 3 % of the general population worldwide suffer from fibromyalgia, a debilitating condition resulting in chronic widespread pain,
- B. whereas the WHO has recognised fibromyalgia as a disease since 1992, but it is still not coded in the official index of conditions in the EU, which excludes patients from formal diagnosis,
- C. whereas patients with fibromyalgia make more GP visits, have more specialist referrals, are issued more sick notes and receive more in-patient services, and thus generate a considerable economic burden for Europe,
- D. whereas people with fibromyalgia struggle to lead full and independent lives, unless they have access to appropriate treatment and support,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to:
 - develop a Community strategy on fibromyalgia in order to recognise this condition as a disease;
 - help raise awareness of the condition and facilitate access to information for health professionals and patients, by supporting European and national awareness campaigns;
 - encourage Member States to improve access to diagnosis and treatment;
 - facilitate research on fibromyalgia through the work programmes of the EU 7th Framework Programme for Research and future research programmes;
 - facilitate the development of programmes for collecting data on fibromyalgia;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.