

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on health literacy

Lapse date: 12.3.2009

Written declaration on health literacy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas there are currently an estimated 150 million patients throughout the EU and this will increase significantly due to the ageing population,
 - B. whereas the positive role of ‘health literacy’ in terms of prevention, health promotion and patient-centred disease management is widely recognised,
 - C. whereas the importance of health literacy is highlighted in the EU health strategy ‘Together for Health’,
1. Calls on the Commission and Council to acknowledge the following recommendations from EPF Conference 2008:
 - setting up an EU Health Literacy Network that involves all Member States and stakeholders,
 - wider distribution of quality health information to patients,
 - further training for health professionals to improve communication with patients,
 - further research on health literacy and its role in healthcare and health outcomes,
 - patients’ meaningful involvement in health literacy policies and programmes;
 2. Calls on the Commission and European Council to encourage their implementation through political commitment and resources;
 3. Calls on the Commission and European Council to propose a Council recommendation on health literacy;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.