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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on establishing a European cardiac arrest awareness week

**Antigoni Papadopoulou, João Ferreira, Jim Higgins, Antonia Parvanova,
Raül Romeva i Rueda**

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Written declaration on establishing a European cardiac arrest awareness week

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in Europe approximately 400 000 people suffer an out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest every year, with a survival rate of less than 10%;
 - B. whereas the survival of many apparently healthy victims depends on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) administered by bystanders and early defibrillation, and whereas an intervention within 3-4 minutes may increase the chance of survival to more than 50%;
 - C. whereas in Europe, automated external defibrillator (AED) programmes are only partially implemented;
1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to encourage:
 - the adoption of common programmes for implementing AED in public places and training lay people in all Member States,
 - the adjustment of legislation in order to facilitate CPR and defibrillation by non-medical persons,
 - systematic data collection for feedback and quality management in every programme;
 2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to establish a European cardiac arrest awareness week aimed at improving the awareness and education of the general public, physicians and healthcare professionals;
 3. Calls on the Commission to support the Member States in adopting and implementing national strategies for equal access to high-quality CPR;
 4. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to enact harmonised legislation across the EU in order to provide immunity from liability to non-medical first responders who offer voluntary assistance in cardiac emergencies;
 5. 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.