



9.2.2015

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure  
on prevention and treatment of glaucoma

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Lapse date: 9.5.2015

**0007/2015**

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on prevention and treatment of glaucoma<sup>1</sup>**

1. Some 10 million people in Europe suffer from glaucoma, a disease which damages the optic nerve, leading to irreversible sight loss.
2. The number of sufferers is likely to reach around 13 million by 2020, due to the ageing population.
3. Glaucoma is the second major cause of blindness in Europe.
4. Glaucoma is easier to treat in its early stages and the cost of treatment increases as the disease progresses.
5. The Commission and the Council are hence called on to:
  - promote prevention, by supporting awareness-raising campaigns among health workers and the general population, to ensure that EU citizens are able to identify the disease at its early stages;
  - encourage European research with a view to improving glaucoma treatment;
  - facilitate the exchange of best practices in prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma among all Member States, in order to provide all EU citizens with equal access to quality health care;
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.