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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on chronic non-cancer pain in people over 65

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Lapse date: 12.12.2016

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on chronic non-cancer pain in people over 65<sup>1</sup>**

1. One in five Europeans suffers from chronic non-cancer pain. One in four is affected by severe chronic pain, especially among people over 65.
2. The total direct and indirect healthcare costs for chronic pain disorders in Member States vary from 2 % to 2.9 % of GDP, with an EU average of 2.4 % and a cost of EUR 271 billion per year.
3. The impact of the treatment of chronic pain on Member States' health and economic systems includes a heavy loss of work days and a higher cost of treatments.
4. Access to treatments, continuity and quality of care, innovation and, above all, fairness to elderly patients with chronic pain are still today not guaranteed.
5. The Commission is therefore called upon to:
  - contribute to the creation of a network of centres of excellence able to ensure competent expertise and access to appropriate care, reduce socio-economic costs and provide adequate training at university level on the subject of chronic pain with a view to expanding the network of expertise;
  - carry out awareness-raising activities and develop patient orientation plans as regards chronic non-cancer pain, with the active involvement of pharmacies.
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.