WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Catherine Stihler

on combating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Lapse date: 23.2.2007
Written declaration on combating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) refers to a condition previously described as chronic bronchitis (inflammation and narrowing of the airways) and emphysema (weakening of the structure of the lung),

B. whereas the term 'COPD' has not been widely used by health professionals and is generally not recognised by the public,

C. whereas COPD is the only leading cause of death that is increasing worldwide, and whereas approximately 200 000-300 000 people die each year in Europe because of COPD,

D. whereas the most important cause of COPD (in 90% of cases) is cigarette smoking,

1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to list respiratory diseases (including COPD) under the major disease category in FP7;

2. Urges the European Union (EU) to develop smoking cessation strategies; considers that further studies on the most effective smoking cessation intervention are required;

3. Calls on the EU to facilitate long-term epidemiological studies of the frequency of, and mortality from, COPD;

4. Urges the Commission to publish a Green Paper on indoor air under the Environment and Health Action Plan;

5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.