

Please sign Written Declaration n. 11/2012

on establishing a European cardiac
arrest awareness week

About 500,000 people suffer a sudden cardiac arrest every year in Europe. It is very easy to help those hearts which are mostly too young to die. Bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by lay people increases survival by 2-3 times, however, today it is delivered in only 1 in 5 out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Increasing this rate may save 100,000 lives in Europe per year.



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WRITTEN DECLARATION

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.