

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Angelika Niebler, Stefano Zappalà, Patrizia Toia, Françoise Grossetête and
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on the significance of the liberal professions for Europe

Lapse date: 23.10.2008

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Written declaration on the significance of the liberal professions for Europe

The European Parliament,

- having regarded to its resolution of 12 October 2006 on the follow-up to the report on Competition in Professional Services (2006/2137(INI)), recital 43 of Directive 2005/36/EC and the case law of the European Court of Justice;
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the liberal professions, such as pharmacists or architects, are a key sector in the European economy,
- B. whereas the liberal professions often provide public services in core areas of general interest (e.g. pharmacies) even in rural and economically less attractive areas,
- C. whereas individual responsibility and provision should be seen as a fundamental expression of subsidiarity,
1. Calls on the Commission to respect the added value of the liberal professions to European society and to make sure that the liberal professions are not assessed solely on the basis of market-economy criteria;
 2. Calls on the Commission to respect the self-governing structure of the liberal professions and their potential to help implement the Lisbon Strategy;
 3. Calls on the Commission to acknowledge that a premature liberalisation of the liberal professions could lead to a decline in quality and in the full coverage of supply, as for example with medicine;
 4. Calls on the Commission to consider more democratic methods when embarking on further reforms and to proceed jointly with Parliament and the Council, instead of initiating judicial proceedings when considering such reforms;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.