

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM, Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING,  
Mr COLLINS, Mrs FUILLET, Mrs ROUDY, Mrs WEBER,  
Mr MUNTINGH, Mr O'CONNELL and Mr ADAM  
on behalf of the Socialist Group

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on a European Charter on the Rights of Patients

## The European Parliament,

- whereas the right to the best possible medical treatment is a fundamental social right acknowledged by each of the Member States of the Community,
- whereas, as a result of the rapid development of medical technology in respect of both diagnosis and therapy in the last few decades, the services provided to the individual patient have become extremely impersonal because of the administrative gigantism and systematization of health care,
- whereas developments in the field of medicine which have led to widespread rationalization in the organization of health care and changing social attitudes towards democratization and the right of the individual to greater participation and to legal protection imply that the need for legal recognition and definition of the rights of the patient/consumer is greater than ever before,
- whereas under pressure from the increasing number of patients' organizations, action groups and the activity of consumer associations in certain Member States the first steps have been taken towards making the relationship between patient and practitioner subject to legal rules,
- having regard to the declaration of the European Council of 1976 on the rights of patients;

### 1. Notes that:

in pursuance of the declaration of the European Council a European Charter on the Rights of Patients must be established which, as the basis for the individual domestic legal provisions, must contain at least the following provisions in this sector:

- the right to treatment and care appropriate to the illness,
- the right to free choice of medical practitioner,
- the right to information concerning diagnosis, therapy and prognosis,
- the right of the individual to a say in decisions concerning type of treatment,
- the right to confidentiality,
- the right to a legal procedure whereby medical treatment can be measured against current medical standards,
- the rights and duties of physicians (or other medical practitioners),
- the legal position of the patient in health care establishments,
- the right to an independent complaints procedure;

### 2. Requests the Commission to submit a proposal on the introduction of a European Charter on the Rights of Patients based on the report of the European Council.