



0082/2016

12.9.2016

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the mental health of asylum seekers

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Lapse date: 12.12.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the mental health of asylum seekers¹

1. The EU is faced with a 'migrant crisis': large numbers of migrants seeking asylum and fleeing war or persecution.
2. These individuals have experienced intolerable deprivation and fear, been victimised and suffered the terrible consequences of war, terrorism and, often, the criminal activities of people smugglers.
3. They have had to leave behind loved ones and are currently facing rejection and aggression in many of the communities receiving them.
4. These circumstances can have a detrimental effect on health, particularly mental health.
5. The worst mental health consequences of their past and current situation may only become apparent after they have arrived in their new homeland.
6. The Council and the Commission are hence called upon to:
 - take account of the mental health needs of asylum seekers and to show compassion for their plight when implementing their respective competences under the Treaties;
 - recognise post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSS) and other mental health conditions (e.g. depression) and contribute to addressing them;
 - contribute to the provision of support and services aiming to prevent mental health problems and address them if they arise.
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ 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.