

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jamila Madeira, Ana Maria Gomes, Anna Záborská, Luisa Morgantini and Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez

on microcredit

Lapse date: 16.4.2008

0002/2008

Written declaration on microcredit

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas microcredit represents a method of lending small amounts that can be accessed by disadvantaged persons,
- B. whereas microcredit has permitted the extremely successful development of self-help employment projects, while also enabling the improvement of living conditions, and is also an important vehicle for the empowerment of women,
- C. whereas microcredit is a key tool for the combating of poverty and an instrument for achieving the Millennium Goals,
- 1. Requests the Commission and the Council to recognise the importance of microcredit in the context of the Barcelona Process and in the neighbourhood and development policies;
- 2. Calls on the Commission and the Council to lend greater support to microcredit projects and to bolster programmes to help women in that connection;
- 3. Calls for human and financial resources to be allocated to microcredit projects in the developing countries and in the Mediterranean;
- 4. Suggests that a Joint Microcredit Association be created to certify the credibility of projects;
- 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.