Declaration on microcredit

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The European Parliament adopted a Declaration on microcredit tabled by Jamila Madeira (PES, PT), Ana Maria Gomes (PES, PT), Anna Záborská (EPP-ED, SK), Luisa Morgantini (GUE/NGL, IT) and Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez (PES, ES).

Microcredit represents a method of lending small amounts that can be accessed by disadvantaged persons. It 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. Microcredit is a key tool for the combating of poverty and an instrument for achieving the Millennium Goals.

Accordingly, Parliament :

-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. It calls on them to lend greater support to microcredit projects and to bolster programmes to help women in that connection;

-calls for human and financial resources to be allocated to microcredit projects in developing countries and in Mediterranean countries;

-suggests that a joint microcredit association be created to certify the credibility of projects.