



## 2011, European Year of Volunteering

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Question of the day

What mobilises over

**100**  
million

Europeans every year?

On Wednesday 9th April, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), Marian Harkin (IE), Gisela Kallenbach (DE), Emmanouil Angelakas (GR), Mieczyslaw Janowski (PL) and Joel Hasse Ferreira (PT) launched a written declaration in the Parliament to propose 2011 be designated the European Year of Volunteering. If it is adopted it will make a significant contribution to the campaign to have the year designated.

However, a declaration in the European Parliament requires 50% +1 (391) of all MEPs signature?s to be adopted. So we need help in mobilising national MEPs and collecting signatures. We would strongly encourage National Youth Councils, National Scout Organisations and Red Cross National Branches to work together with other volunteering organisations to:



1. Make contact with your national MEPs;
2. Personalise and send the below template letter to MEPs of your country (the details of your MEPs are at [www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu));
3. Invite them to participate in a local (to them) activities giving them the opportunity to learn more about your work and volunteering.

This is a great opportunity to affect change at a local, national and European level. If you would like further information or support in exploiting this opportunity, then please do not hesitate to contact [Mike Walker](#)