



Plenary sitting

B8-0006/2017

3.1.2017

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on the impact that heavy schoolbags can have on children's health

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the impact that heavy schoolbags can have on children's health

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas if the weight of a child's schoolbag is more than 10% of the weight of the child, there can be irreversible consequences, and existing conditions such as scoliosis or Scheuermann's disease can be exacerbated;
- B. whereas the prevalence of scoliosis stands at 2 to 3%, and whereas a study published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons* in January 2016 stated that one in three adolescents suffer from back pain, and that that proportion is rising;
- C. whereas an official decree (No 2008-002) published in France stated that a schoolbag must not weigh more than 10% of a pupil's weight, but whereas in practice the average weight of the schoolbags carried by French secondary school pupils in 2007 was 8.5 kg, i.e. 20% of their bodyweight;
- D. whereas besides the abovementioned decree, Member States have established rules for the weight of schoolbags, or mounted awareness-raising campaigns such as 2003's '*cartable poids plume*' (light as a feather schoolbag) campaign in Belgium;
- 1. Calls on the Commission to issue guidelines and to support Member States' information campaigns.