WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the prohibition of begging by children and children accompanying adults who are begging

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Lapse date: 25.6.2015
1. Homelessness is an unacceptable phenomenon that has far-reaching consequences for the people concerned;

2. In order to play on the compassion of potential donors and achieve higher profits, adults beg with children or they send minors to beg, thus endangering their health and safety. The children often do not enjoy the basic rights derived from international agreements and national legislation. This issue is associated in particular with abuse of the right of free movement of persons within the European Union;

3. Children used for begging are often deprived of the chance to decide about their future, because the environment in which they are brought up is not incentive enough and/or does not provide adequate conditions for their development;

4. The Commission is hence called upon to open a dialogue with the Member States about the possibility of concluding a comprehensive, enforceable and properly controlled ban on children begging or begging with children, and about strictly monitoring the status of children moving across Member States of the European Union, mainly in terms of their compulsory education;

5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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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.