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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the use of drones for targeted killings

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0002/2012

Written declaration on the use of drones for targeted killings

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the UN report on targeted killings (2010),
 - having regard to the Geneva Conventions (1949) and the Additional Protocols thereto (1977),
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the use of combat drones for targeted killings has increased substantially;
- B. whereas, according to the Geneva Conventions, in a non-international armed conflict it is permissible to target persons only if they are participating directly in hostilities, and in the event of doubt individuals must be treated as civilians;
- C. whereas, according to the UN report on targeted killings, combat drone operations ‘necessarily lead to indiscriminate killings of civilians’, and whereas, according to Pakistan Body Count, as many as 2 179 civilians were killed in combat drone operations in Pakistan up to 30 September 2011;
1. Urges the EU and its Member States categorically to prohibit drone operations for the purpose of targeted killings and to advocate that they be proscribed internationally;
 2. Urges the EU and its Member States to commit, pending a total ban on combat drone operations, to ensuring that States publish their criteria for combat drone operations, as well as information about the victims of such operations, in particular civilian victims;
 3. Urges the EU and its Member States to commit to ensuring that, in the event of unlawful killings, measures are taken against the perpetrators and identified perpetrators are penalised;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.