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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on open and collaborative government

**Gianni Pittella, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Marisa Matias,
Katarína Neved'alová, Marietje Schaake**

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Written declaration on open and collaborative government

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Aarhus Convention enshrine the right to good administration, the right to have access to documents and the right to impart information;
- B. whereas citizens have increasing expectations of institutions in terms of transparency, credibility and efficiency;
- C. whereas interactivity should be strongly encouraged between citizens and governments, as well as European institutions, to further enhance trust and transparency;
- D. whereas Parliament aims to lead by example in providing access to information and cooperating with citizens;
 1. Asserts that public sector information is a public good and must be freely available and permanently accessible online in a machine-readable, searchable and current format, consistent with personal data protection and national security interests;
 2. Asserts that the Commission's Open Data Strategy is an important step towards greater transparency and stresses that Member States need to develop such policies for transparency and accountability;
 3. Asserts that the public must have the opportunity to participate in policy-making, information collection, policy development and decision-making;
 4. Asks Member States and governments to collaborate with civil society to develop processes and platforms for meaningful citizen engagement in consultation and policy innovation, and report on the results;
 5. Supports the Commission in developing further policies and platforms on open data and collaborative governance;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and Member States of the European Union.