

27.4.2015

0015/2015

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on accessible tourism

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Lapse date: 27.7.2015

**0015/2015**

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on accessible tourism<sup>1</sup>**

1. There are currently an estimated 80 million persons with disabilities in the EU. Accessibility to the physical environment, as well as to information and means of communication, can represent a major obstacle to their mobility when travelling and on arrival at their holiday destination.
2. By 2050 there will be 3 times as many people over 65 in Europe than in 2003, and 5 times as many people over 80, thus implying important challenges for tourism for a large part of European society.
3. Making tourism more accessible is not merely a social responsibility, but is also in line with the EU's social inclusion goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the EU.
4. A new action on accessible tourism could represent an important tool for growth and jobs in a sector that still remains vastly under-served, while combating discrimination, one of the fundamental values of the EU.
5. The Commission is hence called upon to raise awareness among stakeholders and economic operators on the need for increased accessibility in tourism for travellers requiring such accessibility.
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.