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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the recognition of obesity as a chronic disease

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the recognition of obesity as a chronic disease¹

1. Alarmingly, it is predicted that by 2030 over 50 % of Europeans will be obese. In some countries the number of people who will be overweight or obese may even exceed 90 %.
2. Obesity is already estimated to cost the European Union EUR 70 billion annually in healthcare costs and lost productivity. The total burden is likely to be even higher, as obesity causes many other diseases, including Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and certain cancers.
3. Better prevention and treatment of obesity will provide tangible healthcare system savings, as well as reducing the suffering of the millions affected.
4. Obesity is complex and is caused by many different factors, including medical, cultural and socioeconomic dynamics. This being the case, there is an urgent need to recognise obesity as a disease in order to ensure better mobilisation of resources when it comes to the prevention, treatment and care of the disease.
5. The Commission and the Council are therefore called upon to work towards a harmonised Europe-wide recognition of obesity as a chronic disease.
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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.