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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on supporting talent in the European Union

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Written declaration on supporting talent in the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the emphasis placed on talent in the Europe 2020 strategy,
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. noting that talent and creativity are the basis for innovation and competitiveness;
 - B. noting that each European citizen may possess a hidden form of talent and that there is no age limit to discovering talents;
 - C. noting that talent support enhances self-esteem, employability, social mobility and cohesion and is an important ingredient of any programme targeting underprivileged groups;
 - D. deeply concerned that fewer and fewer new talents are being discovered in Europe;
 - E. noting the Budapest Declaration on Talent Support, which was endorsed on 8 April 2011 by representatives from 24 European countries;
1. Calls on the Member States to consider measures to promote curricular and extracurricular forms of talent support, including training for educational professionals to recognise and help talent;
 2. Calls on the Commission to consider talent support as part of ‘non-formal learning’ and a priority in future European strategies, such as the strategies guiding the European Research Area and the European Social Fund;
 3. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to support the development of a Europe-wide talent support network bringing together talent support communities, Talent Points and European Talent Centres in order to facilitate cooperation and the development and dissemination of the best talent support practices;
 4. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to celebrate the European Day of Highly Able People;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.