



0015/2016

24.2.2016

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on universal access to maternal healthcare

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Lapse date: 24.5.2016

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on universal access to maternal healthcare<sup>1</sup>**

1. In an EU of differing health systems, maternal health is a vulnerable area characterised by disparities in universal access to healthcare and information, which leads to health inequities, especially for vulnerable groups.
2. Equitable access to maternal healthcare, which is interconnected to a range of policies such as resilient health systems, maternity leave and responsibility for future generations, is often regarded as a sub-point, lacking real-life statistics and being neglected at EU and international level (for instance in the Sustainable Development Goals).
3. The Council and the Commission are therefore called upon to encourage the Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that all women in Europe, regardless of migration status or minority origin, have the opportunity to be informed and proactive, and enjoy universal access to high quality maternal healthcare.
4. The Council and the Commission are called upon to recommend that the Member States cooperate among themselves and with EU bodies and NGOs to exchange best practices in the area of maternal healthcare, with a view to endorsing more detailed action on establishing monitoring and data collection processes, providing a concrete statistical basis for future policies aimed at improving maternal healthcare access in Europe, and creating resilient health systems.
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and 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.