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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the need for a special investment plan for subregions with high unemployment levels

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the need for a special investment plan for subregions with high unemployment levels¹

1. Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union states that the Union must aim at full employment and social progress and promote economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among the Member States. Cohesion policy should result, among other advantages, in greater social inclusion and poverty reduction, providing states with the flexibility needed to be able to provide individualised support based on local needs.
2. According to Eurostat, in 2014 there were 61 European regions in eight EU countries with unemployment rates between 14 and 34.8 %, and 63 regions in seven EU countries with unemployment rates between 2.5 and 4.9 %.
3. The Commission is hence called upon to study the possibility of establishing a specific programme, within the framework of the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, and complementing the Social Investment Package, for subregions with high unemployment levels (over 30 %) in accordance with Articles 148 and 174 TFEU.
4. Recalls that these regions need investment to help them boost their growth and set population, in order to ensure their sustainability. To this end, the Commission is called upon to consider developing a special investment plan, with the involvement of the relevant European and national authorities in these areas.
5. 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.