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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on a regulation to limit the industrially produced trans-fatty acid content of food products

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Written declaration on a regulation to limit the industrially produced trans-fatty acid content of food products

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas evidence for industrially-produced trans-fatty acids (TFAs) as a causative factor in cardiovascular disease is strong; whereas for obesity, diabetes, cancer, neurological disorders, blindness, liver disease, infertility and other diseases the evidence is suggestive,
- B. whereas a review investigating links between TFAs and cardiovascular disease concluded that a 2% increase in intake of industrially-produced TFAs was associated with a 23% increase in heart disease,
- C. whereas industrially-produced TFAs in human milk have potential adverse effects on infants, since TFAs interfere with essential fatty acid metabolism,
- D. whereas it is important to distinguish between naturally-occurring TFAs and industrially produced TFAs and their health impacts; whereas consuming moderate amounts of natural TFAs does not alter the risk of cardiovascular disease,
- E. whereas the Policy Department study ‘Trans Fatty Acids and Health’ recommended a ban on industrially-produced TFAs,
 1. Calls on the Commission to limit the maximum permissible content of industrially-produced TFAs in all ingredients intended for food products for human consumption within the EU to no more than 2% of the total fat content, as already implemented in Denmark;
 2. Calls on the Commission to ensure that there is collaboration between the food industry and health and nutrition professionals in the development of alternative food production techniques so as to avoid the replacement of industrially-produced TFAs with saturated fats;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.