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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life

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Lapse date: 22.1.2013

**Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life<sup>1</sup>**

1. On 9 March 2004, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on reconciling professional, family and private lives<sup>2</sup>,
2. The reconciliation of work and family life is an important means of achieving equality between women and men, which is a fundamental value of the EU enshrined in the Treaties,
3. Better support for reconciliation measures will enable women and men in all kinds of family models to exercise greater choice in balancing work and family life on the basis of their individual needs and preferences, and will also contribute to achieving the major policy objectives of the EU;
4. A dedicated European Year will trigger responses to pressing challenges such as demographic change, economic and financial crisis, unemployment, poverty and social exclusion;
5. Policies supporting the reconciliation of work and family life, and tools such as the ESF can reduce gender wage inequalities, and can be a key element for sustainable employment and income-led recovery, as well as have a positive impact on demography and enable carers to fulfil their care responsibilities;
6. The Commission and all other European institutions are called upon to announce 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life;
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission, the Council and the Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Rule 123(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, when the declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it shall be published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 102 E, 28.4.2004, p. 492.