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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on European tourism

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Lapse date: 7.12.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on European tourism¹

1. The European Union is the world's leading tourist destination.
2. The European tourism industry generates more than 10 % of EU GDP, employing almost 10 million workers in 1.8 million companies. Europe's priceless cultural and natural heritage makes a vital contribution to tourism in its biggest cities, as well as in its rural and coastal areas. Unemployment levels are high, especially among young people, in the Mediterranean countries. With reference to the principle of subsidiarity, the Member States, and in particular local and regional authorities, play an important role in the development of European tourism.
3. European tourism's position at world level is steadily being eroded, and its competitiveness therefore needs to be strengthened.
4. The Commission is hence called upon to consider supporting the establishment of a European Tourist Board and to consider supporting the proclamation of the European Year of Cultural Tourism. The Member States and local and regional authorities are called upon to strengthen the competitiveness of European tourism.
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.