



30.11.2011

0052/2011

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on children with Down syndrome

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Lapse date: 15.3.2012

0052/2011

Written declaration on children with Down syndrome

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas it is estimated that the chances of a child being born with Down syndrome are between 600 and 1000 to 1;
 - B. whereas Down syndrome is one of the commonest genetic causes of learning disabilities;
 - C. whereas congenital anomalies are one of the main causes of infant mortality and long-term disability, and children with Down syndrome can suffer from numerous congenital disturbances, the most frequent being heart disease;
 - D. whereas Article 26 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union states: 'The Union recognises and respects the right of persons with disabilities to benefit from measures designed to ensure their independence, social and occupational integration and participation in the life of the community';
 - E. whereas the EU has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which lays down universal minimum standards protecting and guaranteeing a whole range of civil, political, social and economic rights;
1. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to:
 - contribute to the social inclusion of children with Down syndrome by means of awareness-raising campaigns at national and European level;
 - promote pan-European research into the treatment of this condition;
 - draw up a Europe-wide strategy for protecting the rights of children with Down syndrome in the EU;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the national authorities concerned.