



10.9.2012

0027/2012

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on lowering the voting age to 16

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Lapse date: 13.12.2012

0027/2012

Written declaration on lowering the voting age to 16

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 20 to 24 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which concern European citizenship,
 - having regard to Article 165 TFEU, which concerns education, vocational training, youth and sport,
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the right to vote is an irreplaceable form of democratic participation, and whereas young Europeans need to have rights matching their duties;
 - B. whereas increasingly low election turnouts are creating a democratic deficit, and whereas studies show a correlation between early and lifelong electoral participation;
 - C. whereas citizenship education is a key element for active citizenship, and whereas 2013 is the European Year of Citizens;
 - D. whereas the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012) points to the need for a political platform to improve intergenerational dialogue;
1. Calls on the Member States to lower the voting age to 16, to strengthen civic education in schools, to adapt teacher training and to foster cooperation with non-formal education providers;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.