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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on a European card for persons with disabilities

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Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on a European card for persons with disabilities¹

1. One in six people in the EU is affected by disability. These persons are entitled to fully benefit from all of the rights enjoyed by EU citizens, in particular the right to freedom of choice with regard to travel and the place of study and work. These rights of persons with disabilities are also recognised by Article 26 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which states that persons with disabilities should 'benefit from measures designed to ensure their independence, social and occupational integration and participation in the life of the community';
2. In their countries of residence, persons with disabilities enjoy certain special rights which aim to facilitate their mobility and accessibility. Nevertheless, as there is no common document recognising a person with disabilities at EU level, those benefits are not always available in other EU Members States;
3. In its resolution of 25 October 2011, Parliament called for the reduction of barriers to the freedom of movement of people with disabilities, via the adoption of a European mobility card;
4. The Commission is hence called upon to raise awareness and to promote the concept of a European card for persons with disabilities;
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 123(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 binding Parliament.