



0073/2015

14.12.2015

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Carpathian Region in the EU

Tomasz Piotr Poręba (ECR), Miroslav Mikolášik (PPE), Victor Boștinaru (S&D), Edward Czesak (ECR), Ashley Fox (ECR), Ryszard Antoni Legutko (ECR), Andrew Lewer (ECR), Branislav Škripek (ECR), Evžen Tošenovský (ECR), Jana Žitňanská (ECR)

Lapse date: 14.3.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the Carpathian Region in the EU¹

1. The Carpathians are the second-longest mountain range in Europe, an important geopolitical area rich in culture and biodiversity and home to unique heritage and exceptional environmental resources. With EU enlargement, the region has become the EU's eastern border and gained strategic importance for the stability of the whole Union.
2. However, it remains the weakest EU area in terms of transport infrastructure and competitiveness; it struggles with problems such as land abandonment, large-scale migration owing to a lack of career prospects, deforestation, environmental pollution, overexploitation of natural resources and development disparities.
3. Although the Carpathians meet the criteria for macro regional strategies, the region is not included in these cooperative strategies and remains marginalised.
4. The region needs immediate transport infrastructure, environmental investment and support for entrepreneurship, employment, sustainable development and tourism if it is to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
5. A macro regional strategy would provide genuine added value and reinforce economic, social and territorial cohesion.
6. The Commission is hence called upon to strengthen its actions in the Carpathian region with a view to establishing a macro regional strategy.
7. 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.