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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the European Honey Breakfast and World Bee Day

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Lapse date: 11.7.2016

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the European Honey Breakfast and World Bee Day<sup>1</sup>**

1. Animals pollinate approximately 90 % of wild plant species and many agricultural crops worldwide, which is vital for preserving life. Insects, mainly bees, contribute significantly to pollination, with the economic value of insect pollination estimated at approximately EUR 153 billion globally.
2. Massive bee deaths and a weakening of colonies in recent years are a clear warning that bees should not be taken for granted. Wild pollinators have also shown negative trends in abundance and richness across the world, including in Europe.
3. On the basis of good practices from the Honey Breakfast project under way in countries including Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic and Austria, which aims to improve pre-school and school children's awareness of bees and nature, backing should be given to the European Honey Breakfast initiative with a view to promoting these objectives throughout the EU.
4. Individual initiatives are not enough. Broader support is needed to declare 20 May 'World Bee Day', with the aim of promoting the importance of honey bees, beekeeping, healthy eating habits and local food products, as well as educating children and adults about these issues.
5. The Council and the Commission are therefore called upon to consider promoting the European Honey Breakfast initiative and to support the efforts to establish a World Bee Day with a view to increasing public awareness of the need for bee preservation in order to ensure the existence of life on earth.
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.