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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by Cristiana Muscardini, Adriana Poli Bortone, Gerard Collins, Mogens N.J. Camre, Roberta Angelilli, Roberto Felice Bigliardo, Antonio Mussa, Mauro Nobilia, Francesco Turchi and Liam Hyland

on protection of ancient olive trees

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on protection of ancient olive trees**

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas in many Mediterranean regions the environmental attractions include extensive groves of olive trees, some of them hundreds of years old,
  - B. whereas the presence of ancient olive trees is a cultural and historical characteristic of the region and its landscape,
  - C. whereas the - often organised - theft of trees of this kind is becoming increasingly common and the trees are uprooted and sold illegally in some areas of northern Europe, which causes devastation of the countryside and kills many of the trees,
  - D. whereas, furthermore, the periodic crises in the olive oil sector may induce individual farmers to abandon their holdings and cut down olive trees or allow them to die, despite benefiting from European financial incentives,
  - E. whereas considerations of environmental protection are essential in maintaining and restoring the distinguishing characteristics of a place, especially in the countryside,
- 1. Calls for all the centuries-old olive groves to be designated part of the Union's heritage, in particular all the ancient trees linked to Mediterranean environmental and regional traditions;
  - 2. Calls, in order to ensure the preservation and conservation of these landscape features, for the creation of specific funding for all those who, at considerable cost in human and financial terms, preserve trees of this kind.