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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by Maurizio Turco, Marco Pannella, Marco Cappato, Michael Cashman, Manuel António dos Santos, Geneviève Fraisse, Heidi Anneli Hautala, Anna Karamanou, Lousewies van der Laan, Lucio Manisco, Helmuth Markov, Véronique Mathieu, Elly Plooi-j-van Gorsel, Ulla Margrethe Sandbæk, Patsy Sørensen and Gianni Vattimo

on the interference of the Holy See in legislation on sexual and reproductive health

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the interference of the Holy See in legislation on sexual and reproductive health

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas on 3 February 2002, on the occasion of the celebration of Pro-Life Day, the Pope called for a change in the democratic civil legal order to introduce legal protection of the human embryo as from fertilisation, in line with the Roman Catholic Church's unyielding opposition to the voluntary termination of pregnancy and any method of non-natural contraception,
- B. whereas the Roman Catholic Church's claim that the validity of civil law should be subordinated to its own theological principles constitutes an attack on fundamental rights and freedoms, and on the right to sexual and reproductive health,
 - 1. Affirms that the principle of secularism implies the complete independence of public institutions and their sphere of responsibilities from clerical or denominational influence or organisations;
 - 2. Condemns the Pontiff's statements as an attempt to subvert the principle of the impartiality of the civil legal order and to ensure that particular religious rules take precedence over respect for acquired civil rights.