MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on reducing plastic bag use in Europe

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Motion for a Parliament resolution on reducing plastic bag use in Europe

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas eight billion plastic bags are dropped as litter in the environment every year in Europe; whereas they deface the countryside, pollute seas and rivers, and decimate aquatic wildlife;

B. whereas Europeans use on average 200 plastic bags each per year, for an average of just 20 minutes per bag;

C. whereas plastic bags constitute a danger to aquatic wildlife because the latter often mistake them for food; whereas at least one million marine animals die each year as a result of ingesting plastic waste;

D. whereas Member States are now deciding to tax plastic bags, set reduction targets or ban them;

1. Encourages the Commission and the Member States to gradually ban and replace plastic bags and to launch campaigns warning of the dangers they pose for humans (for instance when they are ingested by fish and thus sometimes arrive on our plates) or for aquatic wildlife when they are left to litter the environment;

2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Member States.