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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0291/2017**

9.5.2017

# **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure  
on the decline of the European rabbit

**Nuno Melo**

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the decline of the European rabbit**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European (or common) rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) is a key native species in Mediterranean ecosystems;
- B. whereas European rabbit numbers have been falling sharply since the early 20th century;
- C. whereas the main causes of the decline in the rabbit population are viral haemorrhagic disease (VHD), myxomatosis, and habitat loss;
- D. whereas the European rabbit is the staple food for several endangered species, for example the Iberian lynx, the Spanish imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*), and Bonelli's eagle (*Aquila fasciata*), and is one of the most important small hunted game species;
- 1. Calls on the Commission to draw up a European plan with a view to financing research into ways of effectively controlling the diseases affecting European rabbit populations within the EU.