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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Michl Ebner

on the management of wild birds in Europe

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Declaration on the management of wild birds in Europe

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the European Union presents important wildlife diversity and socio-cultural richness, and the distribution, density and conservation status of its species vary according to local bio-geographical and socio-economic conditions,
 - B. aware that the Member States of the European Union present different bio-geographical characteristics and that migrations occur differently in each state and involve many non-EU countries,
 - C. convinced that any taking of birds must be compatible with the sustainable use principle,
 - D. noting that the implementation problems of Directive 79/409/EEC result from its Article 7(4), whose insufficiently scientifically based interpretation by the European Court of Justice creates legal uncertainty without improving the conservation status of the species concerned,
1. Asks the European Commission:
 - to apply the subsidiarity principle to sustainable management of migratory birds, leaving Member States to set their own dates for hunting seasons according to the most recent scientific data available;
 - to submit a new proposal for a directive amending Article 7(4) of Directive 79/409/EEC, contributing to the conservation of wild birds and respecting different hunting practices;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Commission.