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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Didier Rod, Michel Rocard and
Marialiese Flemming

for entry in the register

on the protection of coral reefs in New Caledonia

Expiry date: 7 August 2001

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas coral occupies an essential place in the food chain, in submarine life and hence in the entire socio-economic fabric of the Caledonian lagoon,
 - B. alerted also by scientific studies concerning global warming and increased sea temperatures and their direct impact on aquatic life,
 - C. convinced that in this connection coral is particularly vulnerable, as evidenced by its bleaching,
 - D. aware of the specific geographical significance, the size and the value of Caledonian coral, which is protected by a cold current from the southern Tasman Sea,
 - E. alarmed at the damage caused by the mining industry in particular hydrometallurgy and nickel extraction in New Caledonia,
- 1. Calls on the Commission:
 - to introduce binding measures to preserve the Caledonian lagoon by including it immediately on the UNESCO world heritage list;
 - to promote a model for sustainable development in this area based on the husbandry of resources, close involvement of local populace in all regional projects, especially in the tourist sector,
 - to introduce laws, ranging from the ecologically binding to the deterrent, regarding all industrial activity in exceptional or increasingly scarce natural sites,
 - 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Commission, the Council, the Member States, UNESCO, the New Caledonian authorities and the Live Coral Foundation.