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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on diabetes and obesity in pregnancy

Lapse date: 22.1.2009

0084/2008

Written declaration on diabetes and obesity in pregnancy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas diabetes in pregnancy entails major complications for the fetus, the newborn and the mother,
 - B. whereas obesity is an important health problem, even reaching epidemic proportions (in the EU 20-30% of the population is obese),
 - C. whereas obesity is responsible for the increasing incidence of Type 2 pregestational diabetes mellitus, and certainly gestational diabetes mellitus (10 % of the obese pregnant population),
 - D. whereas the diabetic and the obese intrauterine environment have long-term effects on the offspring (obesity, diabetes, hypertension), known as developmental programming,
 - E. whereas the woman is the most important partner not only in reproduction, but also regarding the health of the next generation,
1. Calls on the Commission and Council to:
 - i. attach more importance to diabetes and obesity during pregnancy,
 - ii. encourage Member States to establish and promote the implementation of national plans to fight diabetes and obesity during pregnancy,
 - iii. develop a Community strategy with the help of the European Diabetic Pregnancy Study Group on prevention, screening and treatment of diabetes during pregnancy, certainly in the high-risk group of obese women,
 - iv. develop a Community strategy to reduce obesity in adolescent and fertile women,
 - v. develop a strategy to improve access to information and medical treatment,
 - vi. encourage European research on understanding developmental programming in diabetes and obesity during pregnancy;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission.