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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on coordination of deposit and return systems for metal beverage cans in the European Union

Lapse date: 5.2.2009

Written declaration on coordination of deposit and return systems for metal beverage cans in the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste,
- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Member States of the EU currently do not have a coordinated deposit and return system for metal beverage cans; whereas the existing systems are in most cases incompatible and many countries have no such system at all,
- B. whereas the Scandinavian countries have had well-developed deposit and return systems for many years; whereas the recovery rate is also high in those countries and, in Sweden, as high as 85%; whereas, however, several other Member States have no deposit and return system at all,
- C. whereas increased cross-border mobility now results in metal cans ending up in countries where they cannot be processed by the national deposit and return system or where there is no such system at all and the cans litter the landscape instead of being recycled,
- D. whereas the lack of compatibility between the national deposit and return systems also constitutes an obstacle to trade for producers of metal beverage cans and is a contributory factor in restricting competition on the internal market; whereas it is ultimately the consumer who suffers when metal beverage cans purchased in one Member State cannot be returned against a deposit in another Member State,
- 1. Calls on the Commission to take measures to induce producers of metal beverage cans in the Member States voluntarily to make their deposit and return systems mutually compatible;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Council.