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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the UNITAID HIV patent pool

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Written declaration on the UNITAID HIV patent pool

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas only one third of the 10 million people in need of antiretroviral treatment has access to it and the price of medicines is on the rise, with increasing numbers of AIDS patients failing on their first-line therapy, and there is an urgent need to find affordable second-line treatments,
- B. whereas two million children are living with HIV but less than 10 % of them have access to the medicines they need, and many of the antiretroviral (ARV) drugs available are not approved for paediatric use,
- C. whereas UNITAID has decided to take steps to create a voluntary patent pool for AIDS medicines for developing countries,
- D. whereas, a patent pool is a mechanism whereby patents held by different parties are brought together voluntarily, in exchange for royalties, and made available for production and further development,
 1. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States of the EU to recognise the need for the UNITAID patent pool to ensure availability and affordability of HIV medicines for developing countries and to actively support the UNITAID HIV patent pool;
 2. Calls, together with international humanitarian organizations, on the pharmaceutical companies to help accelerate the availability of new treatments for millions of people living with HIV/AIDS, by pooling their patents on a list of key HIV medicines;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the Signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Member States.