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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the need to prevent ethnopolitical conflicts in Europe

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Written declaration on the need to prevent ethnopolitical conflicts in Europe

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas ethnopolitical conflicts are part of the reality of today's Europe, whether based on genuine or on artificially provoked disputes between so-called 'titular nationalities' and national minorities in various countries,
- B. whereas these conflicts, which are often linked to the demands of certain national minorities for the legal enshrinement of their special collective rights, threaten to disrupt not only the existing order in Europe, but also the European integration process,
- C. whereas the protection of national minorities should be ensured solely on the basis of equality among citizens as individuals and respect for their fundamental rights and freedoms, not by according special collective rights to minorities or by ethnic segregation,
- D. whereas the problem of ethnopolitical conflicts and of protection of minorities in Europe does not rest in the non-existence of legal instruments, but in their inconsistent application and in the lack of political will of certain Member States' governments,
 1. Expresses concern about existing ethnopolitical conflicts in Europe, which are detrimental to good neighbourly relations and the integration process;
 2. Calls on the governments of the Member States to consistently ensure that national minorities enjoy protection according to the existing norms of international law, namely on the basis of the equality of citizens as individuals, and to refrain from supporting a national minority policy likely to lead to conflicts with other minorities and nations;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.