WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the proposed construction of a nuclear power plant in Hrodna Province, Belarus

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Written declaration on the proposed construction of a nuclear power plant in Hrodna Province, Belarus

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Belarus is proposing to construct a nuclear power plant in Hrodna Province, starting in 2010,

B. whereas Belarus shares borders with three EU Member States, and the proposed nuclear power plant would be 23 km from its border with Lithuania, and 55 km from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, which, alongside other cities in the EU, would have to be evacuated in the event of a major accident,

1. Considers that the construction of a nuclear power plant carries significant risks and requires impeccable preparation and expert consultation, and that the current proposal is less than satisfactory because it does not address many of the concerns expressed inside Belarus and by its neighbours;

2. Notes that a project of such scale and implications is of common concern to the EU as a whole as it could have serious negative consequences for a large area of the Union;

3. Calls for the EU and the International Atomic Energy Agency to put pressure on Belarus to comply with international standards, carry out and present an improved impact assessment and cooperate with international experts, particularly the IAEA, during all stages of the preparation, construction and operation of the power plant;

4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the IAEA and Member State parliaments.