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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the right to vote of people with disabilities

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Lapse date: 16.2.2012

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Written declaration on the right to vote of people with disabilities

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU has adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
- B. whereas the Charter on Fundamental Rights states that everyone is equal before the law and that discrimination based on disability shall be prohibited,
- C. whereas the Treaty lays down that every citizen has the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union,
- D. whereas in a majority of EU states persons with intellectual disabilities are or may be excluded from the right to vote or be elected,
 1. Deplores the way in which people with disabilities are still generally obstructed from voting in elections;
 2. Regrets the recent decision of the Venice Commission to continue to support the practice in many EU states whereby the courts can strip people ‘of proven mental disability’ of their legal capacity;
 3. Calls on all Member States to remove all legal limitations to the right of persons with disabilities to exercise their basic civic rights;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Commission, the Council and the Council of Europe.