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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on a European programme to clean up rivers and coastal areas contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

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Written declaration on a European programme to clean up rivers and coastal areas contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Directive 96/59/EC,
 - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee (COM(2001)593),
 - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee (COM(2010)562),
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have been used in industry on a massive scale since 1930,
- B. whereas PCBs are highly toxic, carcinogenic and endocrine-disrupting persistent organic pollutants (POPs); whereas they are biodegradable only to a very small extent, they accumulate in the food chain and they can be transferred to humans, animals and plants; whereas rivers and natural and industrial sites across the EU are affected by long-lasting pollution,
- C. whereas the EU has made provision for the phasing-out of appliances containing PCBs and introduced maximum allowable concentrations of PCBs in fish, which has locally led to a ban on fishing; whereas the Member States are not responding equally to the risks that PCBs pose for health, the environment, aquaculture and tourism,
1. Calls on the Commission coordinate national plans of action to detect and combat PCB contamination, to draw up a precise map, a joint data base and a joint information system regarding contaminated areas in the EU;
 2. Calls on the Commission to set up a genuine European programme to clean up soils, rivers and coastal areas that are contaminated by PCBs;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.