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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the effects of oil companies' activities on the environment, health and development in Africa

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Written declaration on the effects of oil companies' activities on the environment, health and development in Africa

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 32 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, which provides for cooperation on environmental protection and sustainable utilisation and management of natural resources,
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas African oil spills and gas flaring are substantially health threatening for the local communities and their livelihoods;
 - B. concerned by the lack of political will of the governments of some oil and gas producing African countries and by their lack of capacity to implement and enforce national regulations aimed at avoiding the impact of oil spills;
 - C. whereas there is a lack of statistics on the health impacts of oil activities in Africa and compensation for the affected communities is in some cases highly politicised;
 - D. whereas the EU is a major importer of African oil and a host to international oil companies;
1. Calls on the Commission to assess, through a report, the effects of oil companies' activities on the environment, health and development in Africa, and to find appropriate solutions so as to:
 - (a) support the development of more coherent and neutral government policies towards oil and gas exploitation in African countries,
 - (b) support local communities through health and environment based programmes following independent scientific surveys;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and to the Parliaments of the Member States.