



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on establishing 13 December as European Day against sexual abuse of children

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Written declaration on establishing 13 December as European Day against sexual abuse of children

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - having regard to the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography,
 - having regard to the Council of Europe's Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015),
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. recalling that the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography, constitute serious violations of fundamental rights, in particular of the right of children to the protection and care necessary for their wellbeing;
- B. regretting that the sexual abuse of children still affects all societies and all the children of the world are vulnerable;
- C. recalling that in all actions relating to children the child's best interests must be a primary consideration;
- D. calling on the Member States to establish and strengthen policies to combat and prevent the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, and to introduce measures to reduce the risk of children becoming victims, by means of information and awareness-raising campaigns, research and educational programmes;
- E. whereas a European Day against sexual abuse of children would represent an important message to the child victims from the European institutions;
1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to officially announce 13 December as the European Day against sexual abuse of children;
 2. 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.