WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on open and collaborative government

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Written declaration on open and collaborative government

The European Parliament,

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

A. whereas the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Aarhus Convention enshrine the right to good administration, the right to have access to documents and the right to impart information;

B. whereas citizens have increasing expectations of institutions in terms of transparency, credibility and efficiency;

C. whereas interactivity should be strongly encouraged between citizens and governments, as well as European institutions, to further enhance trust and transparency;

D. whereas Parliament aims to lead by example in providing access to information and cooperating with citizens;

1. Asserts that public sector information is a public good and must be freely available and permanently accessible online in a machine-readable, searchable and current format, consistent with personal data protection and national security interests;

2. Asserts that the Commission’s Open Data Strategy is an important step towards greater transparency and stresses that Member States need to develop such policies for transparency and accountability;

3. Asserts that the public must have the opportunity to participate in policy-making, information collection, policy development and decision-making;

4. Asks Member States and governments to collaborate with civil society to develop processes and platforms for meaningful citizen engagement in consultation and policy innovation, and report on the results;

5. Supports the Commission in developing further policies and platforms on open data and collaborative governance;

6. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and Member States of the European Union.