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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the threat of drug-resistant tuberculosis to the European region

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Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the threat of drug-resistant tuberculosis to the European region¹

1. Tuberculosis (TB) costs the European Union EUR 750 million per year and the European region is home to the highest rates of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) in the world, accounting for nearly 20 % of the global burden;
2. The World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe launched a 'Roadmap to prevent and combat drug-resistant tuberculosis' in the WHO European Region for 2011-2015 and estimates that, if not implemented, the economic loss to the region will be USD 12 billion within five years;
3. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has treated 23 000 people for MDR-TB in Eastern Europe and Central Asia since 2002, and there is currently no viable substitute for this fund in the region;
4. The Commission and the Council are hence called upon to back the Global Fund politically and financially, especially in light of its replenishment in 2013;
5. The Commission is called upon to give financial and political backing to the WHO's roadmap on drug-resistant tuberculosis;
6. The Commission is called upon to support the revision of Global Fund eligibility criteria to ease restrictions on middle-income countries;
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ In accordance with Rule 123(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, when the declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it shall be published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.