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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on protecting children and their rights in the context of internet namespace
targeting children

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Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on protecting children and their rights in the context of internet namespace targeting children¹

1. ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is in the process of adding new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) to the internet. Some of the new gTLD strings that have been applied for are targeted on or are closely related to children, among them the string '.kid(s)';
2. A children-friendly space on the internet enhances the accessibility of knowledge and can impact positively on children worldwide;
3. The proper governance of such online space is crucial in order to reduce the risks of harm and ensure that the protection of children and their rights is not compromised;
4. Such proper governance requires the participation of the children's rights community, including children themselves, within the governance structure, in order to ensure the best interests of the child and guard against commercial gain being the main driver, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
5. The Commission and the Council are hence called upon to provide advice to ICANN so as to ensure that it takes the above principles into account when approving or rejecting gTLD applications that are targeted on or are closely related to children, as in the case of the string '.kid(s)';
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission and the Council.

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.