



21.10.2013

0019/2013

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the protection of the right of minors to maintain a meaningful relationship with both parents, even if the latter are legally separated or divorced

Matteo Salvini (EFD), Lorenzo Fontana (EFD), Giancarlo Scottà (EFD), Mara Bizzotto (EFD), Magdi Cristiano Allam (EFD), Cristiana Muscardini (ECR), Sergio Silvestris (PPE), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Francesco Speroni (EFD), Marco Scurria (PPE), Claudio Morganti (EFD), Roberta Angelilli (PPE), Marlene Mizzi (S&D), Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

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Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the protection of the right of minors to maintain a meaningful relationship with both parents, even if the latter are legally separated or divorced¹

1. Children are extremely sensitive and, therefore, vulnerable in the face of a traumatic separation from one of their parents, who are normally the most important key figures in a child's life. Such a separation may pose a serious threat to children's development and to their mental and physical health; since it was founded, the European Union has always taken special care to recognise and protect the rights of children;
2. In the European Union, all too many separated fathers and mothers are denied the right to maintain a meaningful relationship with their children, when sole custody is granted to the other parent. This has a negative impact both on the life of the child and on that of the 'excluded' parent;
3. The Commission is therefore called upon to raise awareness of the right that every child has, in conformity with the Charter of Fundamental Rights, to maintain on a regular basis a personal relationship and direct contact with both his or her parents, unless that is contrary to his or her interests;
4. 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.