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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on education and employment for persons with autism spectrum disorders and similar challenges

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Lapse date: 9.3.2014

0025/2013

**Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on education and employment for persons with autism spectrum disorders and similar challenges<sup>1</sup>**

1. High-functioning persons with autism spectrum disorders and similar challenges face many difficulties in the EU regarding their education and employment. These difficulties persist despite good employment opportunities within the ICT (information and communication technologies) and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) sectors in occupations requiring attention to detail, pattern recognition and endurance in repetitive tasks;
2. The exchange of best practices regarding education and employment contributes to an equalising effect within the EU and provides return on investment for all parties involved;
3. The Commission and the Council are hence called on to:
  - promote educational and employment opportunities for persons with autism;
  - promote the exchange of best practices across the EU and of documentation regarding social returns on investment;
  - support continued research on persons with autism, especially regarding their integration into education and employment;
4. The Commission is furthermore called on to promote awareness among both public-sector and private employers of the possibilities of financial support and the advantages of employing persons with autism;
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Under Rule 123(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.