WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the demographic future of Europe and the challenges of ageing and depopulation

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, on the demographic future of Europe and the challenges of ageing and depopulation

1. One of the central challenges we face as a continent is progressive population ageing and the depopulation of multiple regions of the EU;

2. This demographic crisis is affecting the economic vitality and sustainability of the continent, the survival of our social model and the social and territorial cohesion of the EU itself; it is generally accompanied by unemployment levels and increasing poverty, which are challenging the foundations of European cohesion;

3. Under Article 174 TFEU, the objective of EU cohesion policy is to reduce disparities between the levels of development of the regions and the backwardness of the least-favoured regions, paying particular attention to those facing severe geographical or demographic handicaps; Parliament’s resolutions of 15 November 2011 on demographic change and its consequences for the future cohesion policy of the EU and of 21 February 2008 and 23 March 2006 on the demographic future of Europe have already highlighted this issue;

4. The Commission is hence called upon to improve the effectiveness of EU cohesion policy by developing a strategic plan to boost the EU’s population, involving Member States and regions;

5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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1 Under Rule 136(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.

