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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure
on the protection of chestnut woods

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Lapse date: 18.8.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the protection of chestnut woods¹

1. European chestnut woods are threatened in 16 Member States by the dangerous pest *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* and in 24 Member States by the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica*, which causes chestnut blight.
2. The sweet chestnut, or *Castanea sativa*, is of great importance to forest biodiversity and gastronomic tradition in the areas where it grows and to the economic development of many rural territories.
3. The sweet chestnut is dying out rapidly in many areas and there is a need to biologically suppress pests and parasites with natural enemies and microbiological preparations in order to preserve forest communities.
4. The Commission is called on to prepare, in cooperation with the Member States and local and regional authorities, a comprehensive and effective programme of measures aimed at suppressing and eliminating the pest *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* and the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica*.
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

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.