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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on vaccination campaigns

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Lapse date: 7.12.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on vaccination campaigns¹

1. According to data from the Global Burden of Disease Study, around 150 000 cases of measles were reported in 2013 alone.
2. In the EU, 85 % of patients who contracted this infectious disease had not been vaccinated.
3. Anti-vaccination campaigns based on misguided information are emerging in Europe, further jeopardising the World Health Organisation's goal of eradicating the most frequently occurring communicable diseases.
4. The WHO issued a warning in 2014 urging Member States to promote vaccination campaigns.
5. The Commission is urged to publicly promote vaccination as an important preventive policy and to support and invest in prevention rather than cure.
6. The Commission is hence called upon to implement the recent Council conclusions on vaccinations as an effective public health tool, to promote the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015/2020 and to raise awareness of the benefits of a preventive approach to the health of European citizens, while safeguarding freedom of choice in the administration of vaccines not legally required in the Member States.
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and 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.