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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on full implementation of the European Strategy for Persons with Disabilities

Dubravka Šuica (PPE), Patricija Šulin (PPE), Jana Žitňanská (ECR), Nicola Caputo (S&D), Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE), Nicola Danti (S&D), Deli Andor (PPE), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Renata Briano (S&D), Bogdan Brunon Wenta (PPE), Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD)

Lapse date: 7.12.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on full implementation of the European Strategy for Persons with Disabilities¹

1. In Europe there are 80 million persons with disabilities who are facing a serious risk of poverty, social exclusion, and discrimination: this state of affairs has been confirmed by a study by the European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability.
2. The rights of persons with disabilities are explicitly set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in 2008 and has to date been signed by 119 countries. In the EU, persons with disabilities are a particularly vulnerable social group, as 21 % face a higher risk of poverty.
3. The EU's disability awareness is amply demonstrated in the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, adopted on 15 November 2010. The strategy proceeds from the premise that persons with disabilities have the right to participate fully and equally in society and the economy: denial of equal opportunities is a breach of fundamental human rights.
4. The Commission is hence called on to work together with the Member States for a better implementation of the signed conventions and charters in the Member States in order to provide stronger support for the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.
5. 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.