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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on investing in children

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Lapse date: 7.12.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on investing in children¹

1. One fifth of the EU's total population is under 18.
2. Children and young people are disproportionately affected by poverty. Even before the financial crisis, child poverty levels were unacceptably high. Despite commitments to resolve the situation, more than one in four children (27.7 %) is now at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU.
3. Macroeconomic policies need to protect children and their families as a political priority and buffer them from deficit reduction measures.
4. The Commission is hence called upon to consider including a specific and binding indicator on the number of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union.
5. It should also request that all Member States introduce specific national (sub-)targets for reducing child poverty and social exclusion, with a view to contributing to the Europe 2020 poverty reduction target.
6. The Council is called upon to urge the Member States to use EU funding and all other available instruments to implement the Commission Recommendation 'Investing in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage'; and the Commission should draw up a roadmap and adopt child well-being indicators, in line with the Recommendation.
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.