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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on violence against vulnerable people

Tibor Szanyi (S&D), Biljana Borzan (S&D), Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE), Marc Tarabella (S&D), Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D), Clare Moody (S&D), Jonás Fernández (S&D), Elissavet Vozemberg (PPE), Nicola Caputo (S&D), Peter Simon (S&D)

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on violence against vulnerable people¹

1. Disabled people, children, women, and the elderly represent a well identifiable group of vulnerable people in the European Union. European laws have to be harmonised to ensure appropriate common steps in the event of criminal acts against the aforementioned group.
2. Member States must establish common rights, measures and instruments relating to crimes against vulnerable people on the grounds that such action is both essential and a moral imperative.
3. Violence against vulnerable people is a serious issue in the EU, especially given that members of this identifiable group are in many cases unable to defend themselves. There is therefore a need for more severe measures to punish and deter the perpetrators of such acts.
4. A number of inequalities and problems exist between Member States regarding the mutual recognition of different rights, measures and instruments relating to vulnerable people and to the perpetrators of criminal acts against them.
5. The Commission is therefore called upon to improve its monitoring of the removal of barriers between Member States with regard to vulnerable people and of measures to punish the criminal acts of which they are victims.
6. 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.