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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the protection of the UNESCO sites in Europe

Alberto Cirio (PPE), Claudia Tapardel (S&D), Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), Enrico Gasbarra (S&D), Marco Zullo (EFDD), Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE), István Ujhelyi (S&D), Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE), Marlene Mizzi (S&D), Alfred Sant (S&D)

Lapse date: 16.12.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the protection of the UNESCO sites in Europe¹

1. The United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) awards recognition to the territories that comply with specific requirements, and bind themselves to strict rules.
2. The recognition of sites listed under the World Heritage List (WHL) is an important factor that contributes to the promotion and protection of important tourist sites across Europe and beyond.
3. The stakeholders of UNESCO sites invest in culture because of the increased awareness of the assets held.
4. Being included on the WHL narrows the range of political options for local administrations, as the rules are binding and land consumption has to be reduced.
5. The Commission is called upon to develop guidelines and provide specific support to European regions and cities who try to receive the recognition of a site in the WHL.
6. The Commission is called upon to institute a European UNESCO Sites Day.
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.