WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the protection of European seas from chemical and conventional weapons

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, on the protection of European seas from chemical and conventional weapons

1. Many European seas are littered with weapons left over from the First and Second World Wars and from the most recent war in the Balkans.

2. A high concentration of chemical and conventional weapons, including an estimated 900 000 sea mines, 1.6 million tons of conventional weapons and 220 000 tons of chemical weapons, is present in the Baltic and the North Sea, while 15 551 Yperite aerial bombs, 2 533 ammunition boxes, 20 000 items of chemical ordnance and thousands of bomblets from cluster bombs are present in the Adriatic Sea.

3. These weapons represent a serious danger to the marine ecosystem and have an adverse effect on economic activities, including fishing, tourism, energy infrastructure (e.g. wind farms, power cables, pipelines) and transport.

4. There are successful European programmes in place, including CHEMSEA, MODUM, UMBRELLA and RITMARE.

5. The Commission is hence called upon to prepare, in cooperation with the Member States, the local and regional authorities and other interested entities, a comprehensive strategy aimed at preventing further pollution of European seas.

6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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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.