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5.10.2015

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on dignity at the end of life

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Lapse date: 5.1.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on dignity at the end of life¹

1. Dignity, as an indivisible and universal value upon which the Union is founded, must be guaranteed at all stages of life.
2. The right to a life in dignity requires the right to die in dignity.
3. All European citizens, regardless of their nationality, who are in an advanced or terminal phase of an incurable illness, causing unbearable physical or mental suffering that cannot be alleviated, should be able to benefit from medical assistance to end their life with dignity.
4. Article 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Articles 6(a), 9 and 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) confer competences on the Union to coordinate or complement the actions of the Member States in the protection and improvement of public health.
5. The Commission is called upon to undertake an analysis of the various forms of end-of-life health services provided in the Member States in order to identify best practices.
6. The Commission is called upon to facilitate the exchange between Member States of best practices concerning end-of-life health services in order to ensure the human dignity of all citizens at the end of life.
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.