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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the relative lack of baby care facilities for men's public sanitary rooms

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the relative lack of baby care facilities for men's public sanitary rooms¹

1. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union includes a chapter entitled 'Equality' which, inter alia, sets out the principle of equality between men and women. This principle should be applied in all areas of life.
2. Equal access to education, healthcare and an equal footing in the workplace: these are the issues that come to mind in connection with gender equality.
3. Public sanitary facilities also pose a problem, as it is often only mothers who are able to change their children outside the home. This situation not only makes life difficult for fathers, but also reinforces the stereotype that only women are supposed to look after children.
4. Every parent should be provided with a similar space, preferably to be shared by women and men, for taking care of their children, bearing in mind that fathers are often deprived of this facility.
5. The Commission is hence called upon to examine the relative lack of baby care facilities for men's public sanitary rooms in the framework of its strategy for equality between women and men.
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.