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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on a European Year of Entrepreneurship

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Lapse date: 11.2.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on a European Year of Entrepreneurship¹

1. As a result of the economic and financial crisis, high unemployment, especially among young people, is one of the major challenges Europe is facing. The crisis has not only raised employment-relevant questions but also shaken young people's confidence and weakened their motivation and desire to stay in Europe.
2. Developing the entrepreneurial spirit and skills is among the most sustainable ways for increasing employment. In the short term this will create new jobs, while the long-term results will be structural changes in the labour market, more flexicurity, and added value for the EU economies.
3. The Commission is therefore called on to consider the possibility of launching a European Year of Entrepreneurship.
4. The European Year of Entrepreneurship will be of particular importance for promoting the measures provided for in the action plan 'Entrepreneurship 2020', especially among groups whose entrepreneurial potential has not yet been fully realised: young people, women, senior citizens, the unemployed and other potential entrepreneurs.
5. Announcing a European Year of Entrepreneurship would help to make entrepreneurship an attractive career choice for Europeans, create new businesses and jobs and stimulate business innovation.
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.