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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on extending the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to Western Balkan countries

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on extending the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to Western Balkan countries¹

1. Six Western Balkan countries, which are crucial for the EU's overall stability and prosperity, are in the process of intensive enlargement negotiations with the EU. Improving transport interconnections between the EU and enlargement countries is a priority with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth, jobs, and trade and cultural exchanges.
2. Inadequate transport connections result in significant economic and connectivity losses for both the Western Balkan countries and the EU as a whole.
3. Current TEN-T network plans are expected to include Western Balkan countries in infrastructure planning and development. On 22 June 2015 the Commission and the transport ministers of six Western Balkan countries reached an initial agreement to extend the Rhine-Danube, Orient/East-Med and Mediterranean corridors.
4. Extending the TEN-T could bring the region economic growth, new jobs and better living conditions, giving young people real prospects for the future.
5. Accordingly, the Council and the Commission are called upon to focus on effective and swift implementation of infrastructure projects and, to that end, to continue to raise awareness of the benefits of extending the TEN-T to the Western Balkans.
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.