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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the reduction of microplastic pollution

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Lapse date: 1.5.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the reduction of microplastic pollution¹

1. The European Marine Strategy Framework Directive states that microplastics contribute to the serious problem of marine litter.
2. Microplastics originate from different sources including the breakdown of larger plastic materials, the shedding of synthetic textile fibres and the use of plastic microbeads in personal care products.
3. Because of their small size, they enter waste water treatment systems and are discharged into oceans. Microplastics are becoming prevalent throughout Europe's seas, posing a risk to marine life – including to commercial food species – through ingestion.
4. The European Parliament resolution of 14 January 2014 on a European strategy on plastic waste in the environment called for single use plastics that cannot be recycled, such as plastic microbeads, to be phased out of the market or banned outright.
5. Policy initiatives have been gaining momentum at municipal and state levels in the USA and some multinationals have stopped producing cosmetics containing plastic microbeads, demonstrating the feasibility of these actions.
6. The Commission is hence called upon to address the issue of plastic microbeads in personal care products, in line with the EU's role in protecting the environment.
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.