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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the promotion and health benefits of breastfeeding in Europe

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Lapse date: 1.5.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the promotion and health benefits of breastfeeding in Europe¹

1. Promoting breastfeeding is one of the most effective ways to further the health of newborns and prevent malnutrition or obesity in childhood. It also has numerous positive effects on mothers and families. Breastfeeding is a natural process that is respected worldwide.
2. The Commission is called upon to continue its work on the strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-Related Health Issues and its voluntary Action Plan on Childhood Obesity by submitting progress reports and enhanced measures to encourage breastfeeding.
3. The Commission is called upon to consider the possibility of introducing a voluntary European symbol or pictogram for 'breastfeeding-friendly places' in Europe (European Breastfeeding Star) for the benefit of nursing mothers in Europe searching for such localities.
4. 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.