



0022/2016

7.3.2016

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on supporting the European shipbuilding sector

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Lapse date: 7.6.2016

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on supporting the European shipbuilding sector<sup>1</sup>**

1. The European shipbuilding and ship repair industry is made up of around 300 shipyards, of which more than 80 % can be considered to be 'small to medium' in size.
2. The shipbuilding and maritime equipment industry employs more than 450 000 people.
3. Shipbuilding is of strategic importance for the EU and provides quality employment for large companies and SMEs in the area of defence and security in Europe. It is an important industry in a number of EU countries.
4. Unfair competition from non-European countries is severely affecting the European shipbuilding sector. The European order book has shrunk to 30 % of its pre-crisis level.
5. State-supported export credits and the use of 'crisis response' instruments have grown in importance all over the world. However, their availability in Europe is limited owing to the Member States' budgetary constraints.
6. The Commission is hence called upon, in cooperation with Member States, regions and the European Investment Bank, to explore fully potential measures for long-term ship financing.
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.