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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on an EU Homelessness Strategy

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Lapse date: 27.7.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on an EU Homelessness Strategy¹

1. Homelessness is increasing in most Member States, affecting several hundred thousand people daily. People experiencing homelessness are diverse – young people, families, migrants, survivors of domestic abuse and people with disabilities.
2. Homelessness is an extreme form of poverty, violates human rights and has high societal costs, acting as a barrier to employment and social rights.
3. The European Parliament has repeatedly called for an EU Homelessness Strategy, including in its resolutions of 14 September 2011 and 16 January 2014.
4. The Council, EESC, and CoR have expressed the opinion that the EU can provide significant added value in helping Member States address homelessness.
5. The EU's poverty target and the actions designed to achieve it currently neglect homelessness. As an area of justice, fundamental rights and social fairness, the EU should rectify this situation as a matter of urgency and make homelessness a priority of its social agenda.
6. The Commission is called upon to develop a homelessness action plan, taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity, containing measures including monitoring, knowledge development, mutual learning and transnational exchange, and making full use of relevant EU instruments and funding.
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.