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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted pursuant to Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the differences in declarations, composition and taste of products in Eastern and Western markets of the EU

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the differences in declarations, composition and taste of products in Eastern and Western markets of the EU¹

1. Some studies have confirmed differences in the composition and quality of products on eastern and western markets in the EU.
2. It has been demonstrated that many products sold on 'eastern' markets are of much lower quality and contain far fewer high-quality ingredients than those sold on western markets. This problem affects a wide range of products – from food and toiletries to detergents and disinfectants – which are of inferior quality to 'identical' products in the western segment of the EU market.
3. While the EU is engaged in negotiations with the USA on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), its own single market is still far from uniform.
4. Accordingly, the Commission is called upon to:
 - (a) undertake market research in order to improve its understanding of the scale of product inequality and its causes;
 - (b) collect and publish data in a public document;
 - (c) in partnership with European consumer protection institutions, propose possible solutions to end consumer discrimination in eastern Member States.
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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¹ In accordance with Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, when the declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it shall be published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.