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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on European cultural routes

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Lapse date: 4.10.2016

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on European cultural routes<sup>1</sup>**

1. The ancient pilgrimage routes showcase Europe's vast cultural and architectural heritage and variety of landscapes, and provide tourists with the opportunity to explore Europe's history and traditions.
2. Padua – alongside Jerusalem, Rome, Lourdes and Santiago – is one of the world's great pilgrimage destinations, for which joint action is planned with a view to facilitating access and movement for pilgrims and tourists.
3. The celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, announced by Pope Francis for this year, will see the arrival in Italy of millions of believers and tourists from around the world.
4. It is important to link up 'St Anthony's Way', which passes through Padua, to Lisbon, the birthplace of St Anthony, and to other significant sites in Europe, in order to improve access for tourists in accordance with the principles of socio-economic and environmental sustainability.
5. The Commission and the Council are therefore urged to:
  - a. support the implementation of European projects likely to harness the potential of European Cultural Routes in the EU, and in particular St Anthony's Way;
  - b. protect Christian culture in Europe, as part of the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage.
6. 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.