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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on European GMO-free regions

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on European GMO-free regions¹

1. The European Charter of Local Self-Government guarantees the right of local and regional authorities of the Member States of the Council of Europe to free and unhindered decision making within their competence.
2. The public policies of local and regional authorities in the context of restriction or prohibition of the use and release of GMOs into the environment should be respected, so Member States should take into consideration their local and regional governments' decisions regarding this matter.
3. The discretion of the local and regional authorities within their competence, and in accordance with the internal structure of the Member States, should not be restricted, and the commitment of more than 150 regions and 4 500 local governments in Europe to be free of GMOs should be respected.
4. In order to further encourage ecological agricultural production and tourism and to preserve biodiversity, this declaration supports the decisions of local and regional authorities who have declared GMO-free areas.
5. The Commission is hence called upon to support the exchange of best practices between Member States, with regard to the implementation of their local and regional government decisions, when they demand the adjustment of the geographical scope of authorisation for cultivation or when adopting measures which restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in accordance with the applicable EU legislation.
6. 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.