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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on broadband regulation

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Lapse date: 12.12.2016

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on broadband regulation<sup>1</sup>**

1. The supply, at European level, of broadband networks is a key element for the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives. Broadband could stimulate sustainable and inclusive economic growth, which could increase territorial cohesion, while also benefiting employment, European competitiveness and scientific research and innovation. It will also spread the benefits of digital technology to regions, cities and municipalities.
2. Broadband technology is continuously progressing and evolving. In order to maintain the European economy at a highly competitive level, private undertakings and public administrations should have access to the leading technologies in the sector.
3. On average, in the 28 Member States, only 79 % of households have internet access. Amongst these, only 76 % have broadband. The situation is even worse in rural areas.
4. Wide and effective distribution of broadband requires close cooperation among stakeholders, the EU institutions, Member States and private actors.
5. The Commission is therefore called upon to study whether incentives, integrated by targeted public investments, could encourage private investment and improve allocation of the spectrum while avoiding new network monopolies.
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to 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.