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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on consumers' right to informed choice of food

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Lapse date: 12.3.2017

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on consumers' right to informed choice of food¹

1. Consumer protection policy is part of the Union's strategic objective of improving the quality of life of its citizens, and, in this context, the consumer's right to an informed choice of products should be respected in all areas, including the food supply chain.
2. The results of the study on the functioning of the voluntary labelling scheme for food consumers in the European Union (EAHC/FWC/2012 86 04) has shown that more than 70 % of consumers buy food products on the basis of data shown on the product packaging.
3. Technological innovation in the area of collection, exchange and use of data to monitor the flow of raw materials and other ingredients allows reliable traceability, thus guaranteeing the quality and safety of food. Manufacturers and supervisory authorities benefit from this traceability, as do consumers, who are able to receive full information on origin and ingredients. This provides information for consumers on the origin of milk and dairy products, as well as on the entire cycle of meat and meat products, including such information as date, place of birth and breeding, date of slaughter, and date and place of the first frost.
4. The Commission is called upon to explore what possibilities can be offered by technology to ensure that consumers have the highest and easiest access, by means of labelling, to all information related to the origin and ingredients of food.
5. 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.