WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

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Lapse date: 19.2.2013
Written declaration on the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the first Europe-wide human rights agreement addressing violence against women, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, was adopted in May 2011, and yet to date only one country, Turkey, has ratified it;

B. whereas violence against women is a major obstacle to gender equality and is one of the most widespread human rights violations, knowing no geographical, financial, cultural or social barriers;

C. whereas seven women die every day from domestic violence in the EU, the victims of domestic violence amount to an estimated one in five of all women, and the direct and indirect costs for the Member States amount to EUR 16 billion every year (according to the Daphne III programme, 2010);

1. Urges the European Union to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and encourages the Member States to do the same;

2. Encourages the Commission and all Member States to collaborate with civil society organisations working on violence against women in implementation of the Convention;

3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.