WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on children left behind in the countries of origin of parents who work abroad

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, on children left behind in the countries of origin of parents who work abroad

1. The number of children left behind by their parents who go to work abroad is largely uncertain. NGOs estimate around 500 000 children left behind in 2012 in the Member States.

2. The overwhelming majority of them are in Romania, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria and Estonia.

3. These children face numerous adverse effects of parental migration, including problems related to school life such as deteriorating performance, declining attendance and a lack of motivation; they are also vulnerable to human trafficking and labour exploitation.

4. More emphasis should be placed on integrating the children left behind by monitoring and supporting their educational performance, providing them with expert-based psychological assistance, supporting their continuous communication with parents and providing school and career counselling.

5. The Commission is hence called upon to undertake a study to assess the situation of children left behind in their parents’ country of origin and to collect EU-wide data regarding this phenomenon.

6. The Commission is also called upon to assess the current EU legislation and to consider the possibility of launching a public consultation on a future European Strategy for Children Left Behind with a view to taking all the necessary steps to promote better integration of these children in the education and health systems of the Member States.

7. This declaration, together with the list of signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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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.