WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the prioritisation of a European Alcohol Strategy

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, on the prioritisation of a European Alcohol Strategy¹

1. Europe has the highest levels of alcohol consumption worldwide. 55 million people in the EU are estimated to drink alcohol at harmful levels, and, of these, 12 million are considered to be addicted.

2. The harmful use of alcohol is a component cause of over 200 disease and injury-related health conditions, most notably dependence, liver cirrhosis, cancers and injuries. Alcohol is a leading risk factor for ill-health and premature death, leading to over 120 000 premature deaths every year.

3. Beyond health consequences, the harmful use of alcohol brings significant social and economic losses, such as the burden on families, communities, health services, social services and police. Around 9 million children in the EU are living with one parent addicted to alcohol. The cost of alcohol-related harm to the EU’s economy was estimated to be EUR 155.8 billion in 2010.

4. Despite this, the EU Strategy to reduce alcohol-related harm (2006) expired in 2012, and there are no plans to update it.

5. The Council and the Commission are hence called upon to make combating the harmful use of alcohol a priority for the EU by developing a new Alcohol Strategy and to support the Member States’ efforts to reduce alcohol-related harm.

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.