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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on promoting inclusive education systems

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on promoting inclusive education systems[1]

1. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union includes Article 21 on non-discrimination and Article 26 on the integration of persons with disabilities.

2. The EU and its Member States (MS) signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which includes Article 24 on the right of persons with disabilities to education.

3. Parliament published a report on mobility and inclusion of people with disabilities and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (2010/2272(INI)).

4. EU MS have already experienced positive results from implementing inclusive education systems.

5. Inclusive education systems are characterised among other things by the following: mechanisms for the early detection of special educational needs (SEN); the guarantee of qualified personalised support; accessibility of universal curricula, ICT, learning materials and support services; the participation of SEN students in all stages of education, including post-compulsory education and university; mechanisms for the transition from special to mainstream schools, and from education to employment; training for teachers and professionals.

6. Access and permanence in the education system enhance equal opportunities for all, social inclusion and employment opportunities.

7. The Commission is hence called upon to encourage MS to invest in education in order to achieve EU2020 and UNCRPD objectives and to promote the collection of reliable data.

8. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to 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.