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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on increasing energy efficiency in rural, mountainous and remote areas

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on increasing energy efficiency in rural, mountainous and remote areas¹

1. Rural, mountainous and remote areas represent 90 % of the EU's territory and are home to 57 % of its population. They generate 46 % of all economic value and provide 55 % of employment. Yet rural communities face substantial energy challenges.
2. Energy efficiency is a particular concern for rural, mountainous and remote areas given that households and commercial buildings tend to be older, utilise inefficient fuels and have lower energy performance. This coincides with the issue of affordability and availability of lower-carbon energy solutions, as fuel poverty is higher in rural areas.
3. Bearing this in mind, EU funding for energy efficiency projects needs to be more effectively streamlined to reach consumers in rural, mountainous and remote areas.
4. The Commission is called upon to simplify the administrative procedures, providing easier access to rural-tailored funds at regional and local level, with better promotion of funding schemes that would make rural beneficiaries aware of the potential the EU offers.
5. The Commission is also called upon to study what the actual potential for energy efficiency in rural areas is.
6. 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.