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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on continued European Union support for polio eradication

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on continued European Union support for polio eradication¹

1. The world is on the brink of one of its greatest public health achievements – the eradication of poliomyelitis.
2. Childhood immunisation is one of the most cost-effective public health interventions available. Global polio eradication efforts have already generated net benefits of USD 27 billion and could save up to USD 50 billion in direct and indirect healthcare costs by 2035, not to mention the immeasurable alleviation of human suffering. Assets and infrastructures built to support the eradication effort are also currently being used in the response to the Ebola crisis.
3. Eradicating the last 1 % of polio cases is difficult and costly, yet achievable by 2018 thanks to global efforts. As proven by recent outbreaks, no country – including the EU Member States – will be safe until all countries are free of polio.
4. The Commission is therefore called upon to make a continued commitment to supporting polio eradication as a priority in its future development actions, and to allocate appropriate levels of funding to polio vaccination campaigns and surveillance over the next four years.
5. 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.