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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by Maurizio Turco, Marco Pannella, Marco Cappato, Olivier Dupuis, Nuala Ahern, Alexandros Baltas, Yasmine Boudjenah, Alima Boumediene-Thiery, Theodorus J.J. Bouwman, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Mogens N.J. Camre, Carlos Carnero González, Paulo Casaca, Gérard Caudron, Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Elisa Maria Damião, Michel J.M. Dary, Chris Davies, Alexander de Roo, Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli, Manuel António dos Santos, Daniel Ducarme, Lone Dybkjær, Giovanni Claudio Fava, Anne Ferreira, Ilda Figueiredo, Pernille Frahm, Geneviève Fraisse, Laura González Álvarez, Catherine Guy-Quint, Christopher Huhne, Anna Karamanou, Lucio Manisco, Helmuth Markov, José María Mendiluce Pereiro, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Luisa Morgantini, Antonio Mussa, Gérard Onesta, Josu Ortuondo Larrea, Giovanni Pittella, Elly Plooij-van Gorsel, Bernard Poignant, Ulla Margrethe Sandbæk, Karin Scheele, Patsy Sørensen, Sérgio Sousa Pinto, Bart Staes, Joke Swiebel, Helena Torres Marques, Ieke van den Burg, Gianni Vattimo and Olga Zrihen Zaari

on the Vatican's interference in legislation governing marriage and divorce

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the Vatican's interference in legislation governing marriage and divorce

The European Parliament,

- whereas when the Vatican's judicial year was inaugurated on 28 January 2002, the Pope called for the civil and democratic legal system to be amended to make marriage indissoluble and counter the introduction of measures in favour of divorce and putting de facto unions, especially homosexual relationships, on an equal footing with marriage, and urged those working in the field of civil law, such as judges and lawyers, not to participate in divorce proceedings, because they are 'contrary to justice',
- whereas the separation of Church and State is a fundamental principle sanctioned by the constitutions of all the Member States of the Union, which has led to the recognition of fundamental rights and freedoms, such as the right to divorce,
 1. Stresses that the principle of the secular State implies the total independence of public institutions and their sphere of competence from ecclesiastical and religious influences and organisations;
 2. Condemns the Pope's statements as undue interference designed to subvert the principle of the impartiality of civil law and to make respect for specific religious precepts prevail over respect for acquired civil rights.