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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the protection of dolphins in the Black Sea

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Written declaration on the protection of dolphins in the Black Sea

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas several hundred dolphins have been killed in the Black Sea in the last few months alone;
- B. whereas incidental by-catches caused by fishing practices and illegal fishing are one of the main causes of death for dolphins, and supplementary measures are needed in order to reduce them;
- C. whereas the Black Sea is not covered by Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004 laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries and reporting obligations for the Member States;
- D. whereas the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) recommends that such measures be included in the Regulation for the Black Sea, where there are clearly by-catch issues;
- E. whereas the Member States have the obligation, under the Habitats Directive, to monitor incidental mortality of protected species;
- 1. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to take supplementary measures in order to ensure that dolphins in the Black Sea are better protected, including by making the use of acoustic deterrent devices obligatory;
- 2. Calls on all the Black Sea littoral states to cooperate in this area; seeks in particular the support of Russia, Turkey and Ukraine and calls on the Commission to take specific steps to secure an agreement under the Black Sea Synergy initiative;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the national authorities concerned.