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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on protection of people with autism from bullying

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Lapse date: 9.3.2014

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Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on protection of people with autism from bullying¹

1. According to the World Health Organisation autism is a pervasive developmental disorder which affects around 1 in 150 children;
2. Studies have found that people with autism are more likely to be bullied;
3. There is little data available on the level of abuse experienced by people with autism and on the lack of societal support;
4. Awareness-raising campaigns on the challenges faced by people with autism, such as Kevin Healey's UK campaign, are crucial;
5. There has been an increase in cyber-bullying, including trolling and stalking, and physical bullying of young people, including those with autism;
6. There is a lack of research and statistics on the bullying of people with autism;
7. The Commission is therefore called upon to promote the exchange among Member States of their best practices regarding legislation and police recording of disability hate crime in order to help the relevant authorities tackle abuse and bullying;
8. The Commission is therefore also called upon to raise awareness, in cooperation with Member States, of all the different types of bullying targeted at people with autism;
9. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 123(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.