



24.6.2015

0024/2015

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on reinforcing the strategy for the EU Atlantic area

**José Blanco López (S&D), Isabelle Thomas (S&D), Francisco Assis (S&D),  
Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE), Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D),  
Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE), Derek Vaughan (S&D),  
Fernando Ruas (PPE), Liliana Rodrigues (S&D), Clare Moody (S&D),  
Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D), Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D),  
Jonás Fernández (S&D), Soledad Cabezón Ruiz (S&D)**

Lapse date: 24.9.2015

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on reinforcing the strategy for the EU Atlantic area<sup>1</sup>**

1. The Atlantic area, western gateway of the EU and frontier of a dynamic maritime space and a fragile marine environment, is an outlying territory composed of a somewhat heterogeneous set of regions, many of which have not yet reached the EU's average level of income.
2. The European crisis has worsened their situation, and many of the Atlantic area territories have suffered setbacks in their level of development, remaining within the scope of convergence of European cohesion policy.
3. These territories therefore need to be provided with sustainable development in social, economic and environmental terms, bearing in mind the need for Atlantic industrial policy, zoning, an Action Plan to 2020 and a strengthening of the Blue Economy in view of its huge potential in the creation of growth and jobs.
4. The Commission is hence called upon to reinforce the strategy for the Atlantic area, in accordance with the European Parliament resolutions of 13 September 2012 on the EU Cohesion Policy Strategy for the Atlantic Area (2011/2310(INI)) and of 9 March 2011 on the European Strategy for the Atlantic region.
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.