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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the protection of the European olive oil sector and olive production

Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), Tonino Picula (S&D), Nicola Danti (S&D), Lampros Fountoulis (NI), Nicola Caputo (S&D), Franc Bogovič (PPE), Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE), Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D), Michela Giuffrida (S&D), Enrico Gasbarra (S&D), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), Marco Zullo (EFDD), Simona Bonafè (S&D), Nikos Androulakis (S&D), Davor Ivo Stier (PPE), Milan Zver (PPE), Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE), Ulrike Müller (ALDE), Elena Gentile (S&D), Salvatore Domenico Pogliese (PPE), Ivana Maletić (PPE), Lara Comi (PPE), Rosa D'Amato (EFDD), Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE), Jozo Radoš (ALDE), Ruža Tomašić (ECR), Dubravka Šuica (PPE), Flavio Zanonato (S&D), Alberto Cirio (PPE), Daniela Aiuto (EFDD), Marco Affronte (EFDD), Eva Kaili (S&D), Remo Sernagiotto (ECR), Barbara Matera (PPE)

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the protection of the European olive oil sector and olive production¹

1. The EU is the world's largest producer of high-quality olive oil, and an increase in demand for high-quality extra-virgin olive oil has been noted.
2. The market category 'extra-virgin olive oil' comprises a wide range of olive oils, from high-quality oils distinguished by their deliciously scented characteristics and high nutrient values to those that barely meet the basic quality requirements.
3. The producers of high-quality extra-virgin olive oils are facing competition from multinational companies and are left unmercifully to compete on the market with producers of unfairly priced oils within the same category, whose products are undoubtedly inferior in terms of the high-quality characteristics particular to extra-virgin olive oils.
4. In 2014 bad weather and the olive fruit fly caused significant damage to the European olive oil sector, resulting in a decline in production – by more than 50 % in some countries – compared with the previous year.
5. The Commission is called on to take all necessary measures to evaluate, protect and support the European olive sector and to raise the status of high-quality extra-virgin olive oils by introducing the new market category of 'premium' quality.
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to 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.