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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages in the EU

Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), Filiz Hyusmenova (ALDE), Herbert Dorfmann (PPE), Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE), Nicola Caputo (S&D), Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE), Alyn Smith (Verts/ALE), Biljana Borzan (S&D), Kaja Kallas (ALDE), Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE), Jozo Radoš (ALDE), Doru-Claudian Frunzulică (S&D), Elly Schlein (S&D), Silvia Costa (S&D), Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE), Angelika Mlinar (ALDE), Yana Toom (ALDE), Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE), Patricija Šulin (PPE), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), Milan Zver (PPE), Kinga Gál (PPE), Pál Csáky (PPE), József Nagy (PPE), Andor Deli (PPE), Iuliu Winkler (PPE), Jordi Sebastià (Verts/ALE), Josu Juaristi Abaunz (GUE/NGL), Danuta Jazłowiecka (PPE)

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages in the EU¹

1. The European Union has over 60 regional or minority languages spoken by over 40 million people.
2. Nearly all regional and minority language communities face difficulties in ensuring the survival of their languages; 49 languages are severely endangered.
3. Protection of regional and minority languages is a human rights obligation and an essential component of the construction of equal, multicultural and tolerant societies – part of the human identity.
4. Parliament adopted the so-called 'Alfonsi report' in 2013 by 645 votes in favour.
5. The Commission is hence called upon to envisage additional actions concerning the protection of endangered languages and to provide increased financial support to the language communities and to local and regional authorities to raise awareness of lesser-used languages.
6. The Commission is also called upon to advise Member States and regional and local authorities that similar support should be given to each endangered regional or minority language community.
7. 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.