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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on preventing childhood obesity

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on preventing childhood obesity¹

1. The World Health Organisation considers childhood obesity to be one of the most serious global public health challenges.
2. In spite of the campaign to promote healthy lifestyles and combat obesity, the percentage of overweight children remains extremely high in Europe, where in 2010, according to a WHO study (Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative), one child in three was overweight or obese.
3. According to the 'EU Action Plan on Childhood Obesity 2014-2020', approximately 7% of European health budgets is spent on the treatment of diseases linked to obesity, which cause roughly 2.8 million deaths a year.
4. The Commission and the Council are therefore called upon to:
 - work towards harmonised Europe-wide data collection and analysis;
 - monitor the policies to fight obesity as set out in the action plan and their outcomes in terms of prevention;
 - encourage exchanges of data and best practice among Member States.
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and 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.