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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the EU's relationship with third countries that benefit directly from corruption within the EU

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the EU's relationship with third countries that benefit directly from corruption within the EU¹

1. Europe is founded on the principles of democracy, equality, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. It is imperative for the EU to reconsider its economic and diplomatic relationships with third countries that protect illegally obtained wealth, making recovery by EU authorities impossible.
2. It is important for the national authorities to bring the guilty to justice. However, the central focus of the fight against corruption should be on recovering criminal assets.
3. Some non-EU countries offer anonymity to corrupt individuals who make financial deposits in order to avoid national and European legislation.
4. The Commission is hence called upon to raise awareness of the serious effects of aiding corruption, to consider the possibility of a comprehensive plan to deter asset transfers to non-EU countries that serve as anonymity protectors for corrupt individuals, and to reconsider its economic and diplomatic ties with these countries.
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.