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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on promoting European culture

Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE), María Teresa Giménez Barbat (ALDE), Esteban González Pons (PPE), José Blanco López (S&D), Iratxe García Pérez (S&D), Santiago Fisas Ayxelà (PPE), Yana Toom (ALDE), Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (S&D), Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD), Isabella Adinolfi (EFDD)

Lapse date: 27.7.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on promoting European culture¹

1. The Treaty on European Union draws inspiration, as stated in its Preamble, from the cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, from which have developed the universal values of the inviolable and inalienable rights of the human person, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law, and establishes as an objective, in Article 3, the safeguarding and enhancement of Europe's cultural heritage.
2. Culture is a fundamental basis of European integration, and is essential to achieving the objectives of the European Union.
3. As 2016 marks the fourth centenary of the death of two of the greatest European figures in literature –William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra –, the Commission and the Council should take advantage of this year to promote the influence of European culture in every aspect of daily life, especially education, in order to strengthen the roots of integration in Europe.
4. The Commission and the Council are therefore called upon to maintain and enhance the European cultural background and to give impetus to developments leading towards the creation of a true Cultural Union, to defend the past and enrich the future of culture, science and the arts, and to prove to society that we are united in diversity.
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.