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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the EU Blue Card migration scheme

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Lapse date: 6.9.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the EU Blue Card migration scheme¹

1. The Blue Card migration scheme is an opportunity to legalise the migration flow into the European Union and to stabilise the EU's economy and the ages of its population and workforce.
2. More than one million migrants entered the EU in 2015. Many of them are motivated, skilled and multilingual. The EU should aim to attract and retain these highly trained workers.
3. It is predicted that by 2060 there will be two working-aged people for every person over the age of 65, down from the current figure of four. Action must be taken immediately to avoid imbalances in the labour market.
4. The Blue Card Directive (2009/50/EC) has been extremely limited in its impact on the retention of highly skilled workers. Only 3 664 Blue Cards were issued in 2012, and 15 261 in 2013.
5. The Commission and the Council are called upon to consider further expanding and facilitating initiatives to cover all sectors of employment, taking into account the possibility of specialised in-country application centres. Equal treatment in accessing employment and education should be prioritised.
6. 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.