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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the need to support and encourage the employability of young people in the Euro-Mediterranean region

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the need to support and encourage the employability of young people in the Euro-Mediterranean region¹

1. Youth unemployment is today more than ever a major challenge for all the countries around the Mediterranean. In the European Union 20 % of young people do not have a job, and youth unemployment in the countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean is still three times higher than unemployment among the over-25s. What is more, one young person in three is classified as 'working poor'.
2. Youth unemployment in this region is not without its consequences for the region's stability. Problems linked to the employability of young people are common to all the countries and require joint solutions formulated within the framework of efficient regional cooperation.
3. The review of the European neighbourhood policy (ENP) in November 2015 set 'growth and jobs' as its first objective and stressed the need for special attention to be paid to young people, and young women in particular. Ensuring young people have jobs is a means to stabilisation and economic recovery.
4. The Commission is asked to hold to the financial and technical commitments it made under the ENP and the European neighbourhood instrument (ENI), and to propose funding at suitable levels for existing and potential projects that boost the employability of young people in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
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.