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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the need for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to support regional accessibility

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the need for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to support regional accessibility¹

1. Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) states that this network should aim to ensure accessibility for all regions and a balanced coverage of the European territory. Since 2014, implementation of this regulation has failed to achieve this objective: 90 % of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) funds allocated to transport have been earmarked for projects located along the nine priority corridors alone.
2. The outermost, peripheral and island regions have benefited only marginally from the possibilities offered by the TEN-T and CEF regulations. Moreover, they do not have as easy access as the central regions to funds under the Juncker Plan, which give priority to large-scale projects offering a quick return on investment.
3. The Commission is hence called upon to pay special attention to covering the whole of the territory of the Union when implementing the TEN-T and CEF between now and the end of the 2014-2020 programming period, in accordance with the principle of territorial cohesion. A detailed evaluation of the territorial impact of the results of the calls for projects under CEF-Transport in 2014 and 2015 could be carried out beforehand in order to provide an objective basis on which to draw up new guidelines.
4. 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.