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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the EU's accession to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

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Lapse date: 12.3.2017

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the EU's accession to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)¹

1. The growing phenomenon of unaccompanied minors, the increasing exploitation of minors by smuggling and trafficking networks, and children's exposure to harmful content online are just some of the issues that call into question the effectiveness of the EU in providing children with the support they deserve.
2. The EU is not a State Party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), notwithstanding the EU's references to the Convention in the implementation of its policy instruments.
3. The EU's accession to the UNCRC would ensure that respect for the rights of the child is changed from being a Treaty objective into a legal obligation, thus sending a strong political signal of great value. This move would further enhance the credibility of the EU as a promoter of children's rights within its borders and beyond.
4. The Council and the Commission are therefore invited to give fresh impetus to the assessment being conducted on the conditions for EU accession to the UNCRC, in order to reinforce the legal framework for the protection of children's rights.
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.