WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life

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Lapse date: 22.1.2013
Written declaration on the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life

The European Parliament,

– having regard to its resolution of 9 March 2004 on reconciling professional, family and private lives,

– having regard to the fact that the reconciliation of work and family life is an important means of achieving equality between women and men, which is a fundamental value of the EU enshrined in the Treaties,

– having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas better support for reconciliation measures will enable women and men in all kinds of family models to exercise greater choice in balancing work and family life on the basis of their individual needs and preferences, and will also contribute to achieving the major policy objectives of the EU;

B. whereas a dedicated European Year will trigger responses to pressing challenges such as demographic change, economic and financial crisis, unemployment, poverty and social exclusion;

C. whereas policies supporting the reconciliation of work and family life, and tools such as the ESF can reduce gender wage inequalities, and can be a key element for sustainable employment and income-led recovery, as well as have a positive impact on demography and enable carers to fulfil their care responsibilities;

1. Calls upon the Commission and all other European institutions to announce 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life;

2. Instructs its President to put forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Council and the Member States.