16.1.2012 0003/2012

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on support for the establishment of a European Day of Remembrance for the Righteous

Gabriele Albertini, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Niccolò Rinaldi, David-Maria Sassoli

Lapse date: 20.4.2012

0003/2012

Written declaration on support for the establishment of a European Day of Remembrance for the Righteous

The European Parliament,

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

A. recalling the great moral significance of the Garden of the Righteous in Jerusalem, initiated by the late Moshe Bejski, paying tribute to those who helped the Jews during the Holocaust;

B. recalling the institutions that have honoured people who saved lives during all genocides and mass murders (such as the Armenian, Bosnian, Cambodian and Rwandan ones) and the other crimes against humanity perpetrated in the 20th and 21st centuries;

C. recalling all those who preserved human dignity during Nazism and Communist totalitarianism;

D. whereas the remembrance of good is essential to the process of European integration because it teaches younger generations that everyone can always choose to help other human beings and defend human dignity, and that public institutions have a duty to highlight the example set by people who managed to protect those persecuted out of hate;

1. Supports the call made by leading citizens to establish a European Day of Remembrance for the Righteous to commemorate, on 6 March, those who challenged crimes against humanity and totalitarianism with individual responsibility;

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Commission, the Council and the parliaments of the Member States.