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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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World Contraception Day – Reinforcing the right to make educated choices about becoming pregnant

Written declaration No. 560

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

On 26 September, World Contraception Day, we reaffirm that women's access to modern contraceptive choice is a crucial component of health, gender equality, employment and education.

Only a few national governments in Europe, among them Germany, Netherlands, France, have targeted reproductive health and rights strategies or public campaigns with information on contraceptives. Meanwhile in five European countries – Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Serbia - the usage rate of modern contraceptives is below 22%, representing the average for the least developed countries in the world.

International human rights law requires States to provide women with access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health services, including making affordable contraceptive methods available and providing appropriate information on them.

We urge:

– Governments to adopt policies that will ensure access to all modern contraceptive methods for people of all socioeconomic classes and age groups, and to include age-appropriate sexuality education as a mandatory element of their school curriculum.

– The Committee of Ministers to address the inequalities in access to modern contraception in Council of Europe member States and bring this debate to the fore

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

KARLSSON Ulrika, Sweden, EPP/CD
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
CEDERBRATT Mikael, Sweden, EPP/CD
DESEYN Roel, Belgium, EPP/CD
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GAFAROVA Sahiba, Azerbaijan, EDG
GIANNAKAKI Maria, Greece, NR
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
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KOÇ Haluk, Turkey, SOC
KYRIAKIDES Stella, Cyprus, EPP/CD
KYRIAKIDOU Athina, Cyprus, SOC
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PRESCOTT John, United Kingdom, SOC
SAÏDI Fatiha, Belgium, SOC
SCHEMBRI Deborah, Malta, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

Total = 26

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group