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## **World Contraception Day – Reinforcing the right to make educated choices about becoming pregnant**

**Written declaration No. 560**

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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.

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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*<sup>1</sup>:

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  
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC  
GAFAROVA Sahiba, Azerbaijan, EDG  
GIANNAKAKI Maria, Greece, NR  
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC  
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC  
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE  
KAPETANOVIĆ Nermina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD  
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KYRIAKIDOU Athina, Cyprus, SOC  
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE  
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
PRESCOTT John, United Kingdom, SOC  
SAĪDI Fatiha, Belgium, SOC  
SCHEMBRI Deborah, Malta, SOC  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

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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