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Declaration on the unilateral decision by the Russian Federation to legalise ties with the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia

Written declaration No. 408

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.

The undersigned,

1. Express deep concern over the decision of the Russian Federation to establish bilateral legal links with the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;
2. Note that this destabilising decision undermines the internationally recognised sovereignty of Georgia;
3. Consider that the current policy trend toward integrating part of Georgia's territory into the Russian Federation violates international law and severely undermines the Government of Georgia's efforts at peaceful reunification;
4. Recall that the Abkhazia separatist de facto rule was established by forcibly expelling hundreds of thousands of civilians on the basis of ethnicity; underscore that Russia's support to these rebels effectively legitimises an internationally-recognised act of ethnic cleansing;
5. Recall Russia's freely undertaken obligations and commitments to the Council of Europe, in particular as regards its commitment to conflict resolution through dialogue;
6. Urge Russia to reverse this decision and respect its commitment to the territorial integrity of Georgia;
7. Further note that in light of these developments, Russian troops operating as Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peacekeepers under the ceasefire agreement of 14 May 1994 are not neutral but are a party to the conflicts;
8. Call upon the United Nations Security Council to:
 - replace the Russian contingent with truly impartial UN peacekeeping forces;
 - boost the mandate and resources of UNOMIG to progressively replace CIS peacekeepers across Abkhazia, Georgia.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

EÖRSI Mátyás, Hungary, ALDE
AČAS Remigijus, Lithuania, EDG
BEMELMANS-VIDEC Marie-Louise, Netherlands, EPP/CD
BILOZIR Oksana, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BRANDE Luc, Van den, Belgium, EPP/CD
CIRCENE Ingrida, Latvia, EPP/CD
COSARCIUC Valeriu, Republic of Moldova
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HAJIBAYLI Gultakin, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
ILAȘCU Ilie, Romania
JAKAVONIS Gediminas, Lithuania
JONKER Corien W.A., Netherlands, EPP/CD
KALANDADZÉ Nino, Georgia
LEJAVA Paata, Georgia
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden
MARTY Dick, Switzerland, ALDE
NADIRADZÉ Maia, Georgia
NAKASHIDZÉ Nino, Georgia
PASHAYEVA Ganira, Azerbaijan, EDG
RUSSELL-JOHNSTON David, United Kingdom
SEYIDOV Samad, Azerbaijan, EDG
TEVDORADZE Elene, Georgia
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 25

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