Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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10 October 2008

Identity documents and databases

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Lord Tim BOSWELL and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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Noting the right of member states to require their citizens and nationals to carry identity documents and recognising the importance of effective and co-ordinated measures to combat the growing threat of extremism and terrorism; noting that not all member states currently require citizens to carry identity cards and that some are planning to;

We urge the Assembly to prepare a code of conduct for introducing identity documents based on the following criteria:

– all obligations imposed on citizens must be appropriate and proportionate;

– all obligations imposed on citizens must be in line with the European Convention on Human Rights and the values of the Council of Europe;

– all obligations should be imposed equally on all citizens;

– all obligations should involve citizens in the minimum amount of personal expense;

– data should not be communicated to a third party;

– data should be destroyed when its requirement lapses;

– all national systems should maintain strict security over stored data;

– communications between databases should only take place in strictly controlled circumstances;

– implementation should be cost-effective;

– all member states should consult with its citizens fully and base its decision on popular opinion;

– all citizens should be given the right to know what information about them is being held on a national database.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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1. EDG: European Democrat Group