



**Doc. 11811**

17 February 2009

## The banning case of the Democratic Society Party (DTP)

### Written declaration No. 417

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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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The undersigned,

1. Are deeply concerned by the ongoing closure case against the Democratic Society Party (DTP) in Turkey.
2. The party is dedicated to democratic principles and forms the fourth largest faction in the Turkish National Assembly.
3. The banning of political parties which play a fundamental role in pluralistic democracies violates the freedom to organise and the freedom of speech. Furthermore, the banning of the DTP which has an important mission for the solution of the Kurdish issue, one of Turkey's major problems, would deal a blow to efforts to solve the problem through peaceful and political means.
4. The banning of 24 parties in Turkey up to the present day created many problems for the democratic process and did not solve any. In the same manner, the banning of the DTP will not help to solve the Kurdish issue but further aggravate it.
5. We are convinced that the DTP should not be closed but that the Turkish Government should enter into a dialogue with the DTP to facilitate a solution for Turkey's major problems, including the Kurdish issue.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC  
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden  
BANIAS Ioannis, Greece  
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC  
BROCKA Július, Slovak Republic  
ČURDOVÁ Anna, Czech Republic  
DZEMBRITZKI Detlef, Germany  
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL  
FRAHM Pernille, Denmark, UEL  
HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC  
JACOBSEN Bjørn, Norway  
JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland, SOC  
KONEČNÝ Albrecht, Austria, SOC  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
LECOQ Jean-Paul, France, UEL  
LINDBLAD Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD  
LOTMAN Aleksei, Estonia, UEL  
MARMAZOV Yevhen, Ukraine, UEL  
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC  
NACHTMANNOVÁ Oľga, Slovak Republic  
O'HARA Edward, United Kingdom  
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC  
SOBKO Sergey, Russian Federation  
VIS Rudi, United Kingdom

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Total = 24

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1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left