Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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07 July 2009

Return of the "Elgin Marbles" to Greece

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Ms Elsa PAPADIMITRIOU and other members of the Assembly

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

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The Assembly welcomes the completion of the new state-of-the-art Akropolis Museum in Athens.

It can now certainly no longer be argued that the "Elgin Marbles", which were removed from the Parthenon under the Ottoman occupation of Greece, should stay in London because they cannot be properly protected for posterity in Athens.

If the need to preserve archeological treasures from destruction was ever an acceptable reason to take them away from the place where they were found, this reason does certainly not apply any more to the "Elgin Marbles".

The Assembly therefore appeals to the British authorities to return the Elgin Marbles to Greece without further delay.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

PAPADIMITRIOU Elsa, Greece, EPP/CD
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia, EPP/CD
ASKO-SELJAVAARA Sirpa, Finland, EPP/CD
BEMELMANS-VIDEC Marie-Louise, Netherlands, EPP/CD
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg
BREEN Patrick, Ireland, EPP/CD
CIRCENE Ingrida, Latvia, EPP/CD
EÖRSI Mátyás, Hungary, ALDE
GEORGIOU Aristophanes, Cyprus
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HAIBACH Holger, Germany
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HOLOVATY Serhiy, Ukraine, ALDE
IVANIĆ Mladen, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD
IVANJI Željko, Serbia, EPP/CD
KEFALOYIANNIS Emmanouil, Greece
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LINDBLAD Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD
LINDEN René, van der, Netherlands
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POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VOULGARAKIS Georgios, Greece
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left