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27 January 2010

Holocaust denial

Written declaration No. 435

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 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe firmly condemns all those who deny, question or admit doubts, in whole or in part, the respect of the historical fact of the extermination of millions of Jews as a result of extremist right-wing racist and anti-Semitic ideology put into practice by the Nazis at the death camps situated on Polish soil during the Second World War.

We are concerned to learn of the ambiguous statements made on the Polish radio station, Radio Maryja, and elsewhere, by Senator Ryszard Bender who chaired the first part of the Assembly sitting on 25 January by virtue of being the oldest delegate present. We note that Mr Bender's statements have been condemned by democratic politicians and historians inside Poland. We urge the Assembly authorities to take more care before any delegate chairs an Assembly sitting who has made any ambiguous remarks about Jews in any context. We note and regret the election of members of the European Parliament who have made anti-Jewish statements or who have denied the Holocaust. We urge Mr Bender to clarify his position and uphold the clear and unequivocal view of the Council of Europe that what happened to Jews on Polish soil under Nazi occupation was a monstrous crime unprecedented in world history, which present and future generations must comprehend and learn why the hatred of Jews leads to ultimate evil.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

MacSHANE Denis, United Kingdom
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
CARTES IVERN Joan, Andorra, SOC
CHIDGEY David, United Kingdom
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
CURTIS-THOMAS Claire, United Kingdom
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
DURRIEU Josette, France, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
ETHERINGTON Bill, United Kingdom
GOJKOVIĆ Obrad, Montenegro, SOC
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HAGBERG Michael, Sweden
HÄGG Carina, Sweden
HOOD Jim, United Kingdom
HURSKAINEN Sinikka, Finland, SOC
HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC
JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland, SOC
KATRINIS Michail, Greece, SOC
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LAXTON Bob, United Kingdom
MARCENARO Pietro, Italy, SOC
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
McCAFFERTY Christine, United Kingdom
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MOSCOSO DEL PRADO Juan, Spain, SOC
O'HARA Edward, United Kingdom
ORTEL Holger, Germany, SOC
PUIG i OLIVE Lluís Maria, de, Spain, SOC
RIBA FONT Maria Pilar, Andorra, SOC
ROTH Karin, Germany, SOC
ROUQUET René, France
ROWEN Paul, United Kingdom, ALDE
SARIKAS Fidias, Cyprus, SOC
SPAHIĆ Ervin, Montenegro, SOC
STOILOV Yanaki, Bulgaria, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
STUMP Doris, Switzerland, SOC
SZABÓ Zoltán, Hungary
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC
VĖSAITĖ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC
VIS Rudi, United Kingdom
VRETTOS Konstantinos, Greece, SOC
VRIES Klaas, de, Netherlands, SOC

Total = 46

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left