Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Confidence-building measures before the next national elections in Turkey

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr John AUSTIN 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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The next national elections in Turkey, to be held in May or June 2011, will be important for the country's future development. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe welcomes the recent contacts between the AKP Government and representatives of the Kurdish community, and also the efforts of CHP to develop a new policy regarding the Kurdish issue.

Nevertheless this Assembly believes that in the run-up to the elections more confidence-building measures should be taken, some of which will also need to be consolidated in constitutional reform in order to permit all parts of the Turkey's population to exercise their human rights. The opinion of the Venice Commission should be sought and taken into account in formulation the reforms.

Such measures should include:

– applying a ceasefire on both sides and creating an international supervision committee to investigate and report on possible breaches of the ceasefire;

– taking all necessary steps to allow persons in prison or on trial for "normal" political activities to be active in politics;

– lowering the 10% threshold in the electoral law in order to strengthen democracy;

– starting to teach Kurdish language in state schools.

The Assembly calls on the Turkish Government to:

– examine the principles laid down in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, with a view to signing, ratifying and applying these instruments;

– reform local and regional government and introduce decentralisation in accordance with the European Charter of Local Self-Government, bearing in mind the pluralist nature of the population of Turkey.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
ERR Lydie, Luxembourg, SOC
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GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
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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