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The need to act responsibly and with clarity of purpose in dealing with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

Written declaration No. 447

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 Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly should continue to act responsibly and assess carefully its capacities and purposes when dealing with issues of conflicts, including the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Any action which lacks such clarity of purpose may do very little to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the conflict. On the contrary, it may produce the opposite result and complicate the ongoing peace process taking place under the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship.

The efforts of the Assembly when dealing with such situations should continue to be inclusive and rely solely on the consent of all the parties directly concerned. The efforts of the Presidents of the Assembly to consult extensively with members of the delegations directly concerned should be pursued with care and wisdom. Such consultations may in themselves lead to an environment conducive to a better understanding and to non-confrontational relations between the delegations concerned. The actions of the Assembly should in all cases discourage any of the parties concerned from seeking to use the Assembly as a platform for propaganda and mutual accusations.

The Assembly should also assess clearly its capacities as far as conflict resolution issues are concerned. The Assembly does not have the mechanisms, instruments or expertise to engage directly in conflict resolution. Hasty action on the part of the Assembly would therefore be unacceptable and may seriously endanger the efforts of the international community to seek a negotiated resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

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