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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Witness protection as an indispensable tool in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in Europe

Motion for a resolution
several Assembly members

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

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Witness testimonies are fundamental to the functioning of any criminal trial in a state upholding the rule of law. By their testimony, witnesses make an essential contribution to the proper functioning of justice, to the fight against impunity and to maintaining the confidence of the people in the authorities.

During the past years, the Parliamentary Assembly has examined the question of witness protection in the Balkans. Resolution 1784 (2011) on the Protection of witnesses as a cornerstone for justice and reconciliation in the Balkans stresses that witnesses who stand up for truth and justice are owed reliable and durable protection. Without the protection and support that witnesses need to be able to testify, justice and reconciliation in the Balkans cannot be achieved.

Reliable and durable witness protection for those who stand up for truth and justice is necessary not only for war crimes and not only in the Balkans. Such a protection is of vital importance in the fight against organised crime and terrorism - problems which may occur, in principle, throughout Europe.

The Assembly therefore resolves to study carefully the question of the protection of witnesses as an indispensable tool in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in Europe.

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