



**Doc. 12856**

27 January 2012

## Dangers of restricting freedom of expression

### Written declaration No. 510

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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.

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Bill No. 229, which was adopted by the French Senate on 24 January, 2012, is in violation of freedom of expression as defined in the European Convention on Human Rights. It restricts the freedom of speech as well as the right to defend individual opinions and conduct independent research. The bill is also in breach of the French Constitution as declared by the Laws Commission of the French Senate in May 2011 and January 2012.

Violation of fundamental human rights in an established democracy seriously harms the credibility and reputation of Europe. Furthermore, it sets a dangerous precedent for other member states to limit the freedom of expression as well as other individual rights at their discretion.

We are deeply concerned by the threat on European core values and its serious consequences. We still expect action to be taken within French politics before the damage reaches an irreversible stage.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

MEMECAN Nursuna, Turkey, ALDE  
AL-ASTAL Najat, Palestine  
ALBAYRAK Nebahat, Netherlands, SOC  
ASSAF Walid, Palestinian National Council  
BAYKAL Deniz, Turkey, SOC  
BERKIA Abdelkebir, Morocco  
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC  
ÇALIŞKAN Abdullah, Turkey, EDG  
ÇAVUŞOĞLU Mevlüt, Turkey, EDG  
CHAGAF Ali Salem, Morocco  
ÇONKAR Ahmet Berat, Turkey, EDG  
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC  
DIJKHOFF Klaas, Netherlands, ALDE  
DİŞLİ Şaban, Turkey, EPP/CD  
ELHANKOURI Mekki, Morocco  
ERKAL KARA Tülin, Turkey, EPP/CD  
FATALIYEVA Sevinj, Azerbaijan, EDG  
GAFAROVA Sahiba, Azerbaijan, EDG  
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EDG  
GAUDI NAGY Tamás, Hungary, NR  
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC  
GÜNDEŞ BAKIR Pelin, Turkey, EDG  
HALICI Emrehan, Turkey, SOC  
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE  
HUSEYNOV Rafael, Azerbaijan, ALDE  
KAIKKONEN Antti, Finland, ALDE  
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD  
KAYATÜRK Burhan, Turkey, EPP/CD  
KILIÇ Akif Çağatay, Turkey, ALDE  
KOÇ Haluk, Turkey, SOC  
KOVÁCS Elvira, Serbia, EPP/CD  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
KUBATA Václav, Czech Republic, EPP/CD  
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL  
L'OVOCHKINA Yuliya, Ukraine, EDG  
LEIGH Edward, United Kingdom, EDG  
LEYDEN Terry, Ireland, ALDE  
LOUTFI Younal, Bulgaria, ALDE  
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE  
MATEU PI Meritxell, Andorra, ALDE  
MORIAU Patrick, Belgium, SOC  
MUSTAFA Fazil, Azerbaijan, ALDE  
ÖNEN Abdülkadir Emin, Turkey, ALDE  
ÖZDALGA Nazmi Haluk, Turkey, EDG  
PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios, Greece, UEL  
PASHAYEVA Ganira, Azerbaijan, EDG  
PLOTNIKOV Oleksiy, Ukraine, SOC  
POULSEN Lisbeth Bech, Denmark, UEL  
QUINTANILLA Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD  
RIGONI Andrea, Italy, ALDE  
RUSMALI Ilir, Albania, EPP/CD  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC

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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  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

SEYIDOV Samad, Azerbaijan, EDG  
STAVROSITU Maria, Romania, EPP/CD  
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC  
SULEYMANOV Elkhan, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD  
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC  
TEKELİOĞLU Mehmet, Turkey, EPP/CD  
TÜRKEŞ Ahmet Kutalmış, Turkey, EDG  
TÜRKEŞ Tuğrul, Turkey, EDG  
VERCAMER Stefaan, Belgium, EPP/CD  
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL  
WALTER Robert, United Kingdom, EDG

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Total = 58