Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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50th anniversary of the United Nations 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

Written declaration No. 502

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 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness provides an opportunity for the Council of Europe member states to recall their commitment to fight statelessness.

Stateless people are marginalised in society as, without nationality, it is difficult for them to access education, to own goods and property, or even to open a bank account. They cannot register their marriages and, without identity documents, have no right to work and thus cannot support themselves financially.

The Second World War and other major events disrupting Europe (for example the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia) have contributed to the increase of stateless people in Europe. The states thus adopted the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Stateless Persons, whilst the Council of Europe adopted the European Convention on Nationality (ETS No. 166) and the Convention on the Avoidance of Statelessness in Relation to State Succession (CETS No. 200).

It is important that all Council of Europe member states ratify the conventions relating to statelessness and that they modify their national legislation so that each European citizen can enjoy a nationality.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

MARCENARO Pietro, Italy, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia, EPP/CD
ÁRNASON Mörður, Iceland, SOC
BAYKAL Deniz, Turkey, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
BRAUN Márton, Hungary, EPP/CD
CHITI Vannino, Italy, SOC
CHOPE Christopher, United Kingdom, EDG
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
ERKAL KARA Tülin, Turkey, EPP/CD
FARINA Gianni, Italy, SOC
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HARUTYUNYAN Davit, Armenia, EDG
HOLOVATY Serhiy, Ukraine, ALDE
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LEYDEN Terry, Ireland, ALDE
LOUTFI Younal, Bulgaria, ALDE
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC
MAHOUX Philippe, Belgium, SOC
MARTY Dick, Switzerland, ALDE
MATEU PI Meritxell, Andorra, ALDE
MATTILA Pirkko, Finland, NR
McNAMARA Michael, Ireland, SOC
MIGNON Jean-Claude, France, EPP/CD
MULARONI Pier Marino, San Marino, ALDE
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PANŢIRU Tudor, Romania, SOC
POULSEN Jørgen, Denmark, ALDE
POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
RACHOŃ Janusz, Poland, EPP/CD
SARO Giuseppe, Italy, EPP/CD
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VITALI Luigi, Italy, EPP/CD
VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy, EPP/CD
VRETTOS Konstantinos, Greece, SOC
VUČKOVIĆ Nataša, Serbia, SOC

Total = 45

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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