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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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To facilitate a peaceful, negotiated solution of the Kurdish issue in Turkey, Abdullah Öcalan should be released

Written declaration No. 534

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 conflict around the Kurdish issue in Turkey has assumed alarming dimensions. Over the past three years several hundred people have been killed in numerous clashes and incidents. The number of, mostly Kurdish, political prisoners in Turkey has risen by several thousand. More than a hundred journalists are currently imprisoned. These developments seriously jeopardise democratic progress in Turkey. The conflict could even escalate into a civil war.However, a peaceful resolution is not impossible. Important steps have already been taken. The negotiations between the Turkish authorities, the PKK and Abdullah Öcalan (the so-called "Oslo and Imrali process") between 2009-2011 generated hopes of an end to this decades-old conflict. The parties to these negotiations apparently came very close to an agreement. Abdullah Öcalan's positive role in these talks is widely recognised. As a key figure for a peaceful, negotiated solution of the Kurdish issue in Turkey, he must be released and negotiations with him and the PKK must be restarted.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

MORIAU Patrick, Belgium, SOC
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL
BACKMAN Þuriður, Iceland, UEL
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
DRAGASAKIS Ioannis, Greece, UEL
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KANELLI Liana, Greece, UEL
KONEČNÁ Kateřina, Czech Republic, UEL
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
LOUKAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MARQUET Bernard, Monaco
NESSA Pasquale, Italy, EPP/CD
PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios, Greece, UEL
PETRENCO Grigore, Republic of Moldova, UEL
ROCHEBLOINE François, France, EPP/CD
ROSSI Alessandro, San Marino, UEL
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
WERNER Katrin, Germany, UEL

Total = 22

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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