



Doc. 13273

03 July 2013

How to prevent inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe?

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Kerstin LUNDGREN and other members of the Assembly

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

The Council of Europe has recognised the importance of dynamic civil society for the fruitful development of democracy *inter alia* in the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe and the Code of Good Practice for Civil Society Participation in the Decision-Making Process, adopted by the Conference of INGOs in 2009 and supported by the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly.

Despite this determination to set standards for guaranteeing the free development and effective participation of NGOs in the democratic process, we still observe unjustified attempts to restrict the freedom of association in Europe. The Venice Commission has critically addressed a number of such cases, as did the Expert Council on NGO Law of the Conference of INGOs. NGOs face excessive formal requirements for registration and functioning, unjustified criminalisation of activities, restriction of access to funding (especially foreign funding), repression against their members and exclusion from consultations on the adoption of legislation concerning their status, funding and scope of activities, etc.

The Assembly should identify the major challenges which hinder the development of civil society organisations in Europe today; to determine how to improve the existing standards for interaction between State authorities and NGOs in order to establish favourable legal, political and economic conditions for the effective functioning of civil society and elaborate guidelines on how the Assembly and national parliaments can reinforce the implementation of these standards.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL
ANTTILA Sirkka-Liisa, Finland, ALDE
BARDINA PAU Josep Anton, Andorra, ALDE
BERDZENISHVILI Levan, Georgia, ALDE
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC
BOKUCHAVA Tinatin, Georgia, EPP/CD
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
BULAJIĆ Svetislava, Serbia, ALDE
CHIKOVANI Irakli, Georgia, ALDE
DRAGASAKIS Ioannis, Greece, UEL
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
GUȚU Ana, Republic of Moldova, ALDE
HANSON Margus, Estonia, ALDE
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
HEER Alfred, Switzerland, ALDE
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KAIKKONEN Antti, Finland, ALDE
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
LEYDEN Terry, Ireland, ALDE
MATEU PI Meritxell, Andorra, ALDE
PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios, Greece, UEL
REILLY Kathryn, Ireland, UEL
REPS Mailis, Estonia, ALDE
RIGONI Andrea, Italy, ALDE
SCHUSTER Marina, Germany, ALDE
STROE Ionuț-Marian, Romania, ALDE
TAKTAKISHVILI Chiora, Georgia, ALDE
TATSOPOULOS Petros, Greece, UEL
TUIKSOO Ester, Estonia, ALDE
XUCLÀ Jordi, Spain, ALDE
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, ALDE
ZOURABIAN Levon, Armenia, ALDE

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