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Direct election by citizens cannot be overturned by the authorities

Written declaration No. 539

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.

Every Council of Europe member State accepts that its own citizens' will is the only source of power. Each country's parliament is directly elected by citizens. Thus the members elected are direct representatives of the people, whose will is the only source of power.

Recent events in Ukraine call into question Ukraine's compliance with this basic principle. In this context there have been two different decisions of the Supreme Administrative Court of Ukraine which arbitrarily deprived of the parliamentary seats to which they had been elected on the basis of majority voting Oleksandr Dombrovskyy, Pavlo Baloha and Serhiy Vlasenko, elected on the basis of the lists of the Batkivshchyna party, currently in opposition. At the same time, the court decisions regarding Dombrovskyy and Baloha have not been fully implemented. Vlasenko has been deprived of his mandate, and the Central Elections Committee has put in his place a new member of parliament from the Batkivshchyna party list.

We express our extreme concern about these processes in Ukraine, which conflict with the basic principles of democracy.

We urge the Ukrainian authorities to desist from their direct violations of the rules accepted by Ukraine when it joined the Council of Europe.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BENEYTO José María, Spain, EPP/CD
BOKUCHAVA Tinatin, Georgia, EPP/CD
CLUNE Deirdre, Ireland, EPP/CD
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC
DAVIES David, United Kingdom, EDG
FLANAGAN Terence, Ireland, EPP/CD
GERASHCHENKO Iryna, Ukraine, EPP/CD
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
HALICKI Andrzej, Poland, EPP/CD
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KAŻMIERCZAK Jan, Poland, EPP/CD
KOSZORÚS László, Hungary, EPP/CD
MIHALOVICS Péter, Hungary, EPP/CD
NAGY József, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD
NYKIEL Mirosława, Poland, EPP/CD
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
OROBETS Lesia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
RADZISZEWSKA Elżbieta, Poland, EPP/CD
ROTNICKA Jadwiga, Poland, EPP/CD
SHEVCHENKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, NR
SOBOLEV Serhiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
TOSHEV Latchezar, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy
WACH Piotr, Poland, EPP/CD

Total = 28

1. EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group