



**Doc. 13887**

30 September 2015

## **Moldova is urged to immediately release all the political prisoners**

**Written declaration No. 598**

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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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On 6 September 2015, thousands of Moldovans rallied in Chisinau downtown against lawlessness, corruption, oligarch dictatorship, demanding senior officials of the law enforcement agencies to resign, and to bring to justice everyone involved in the case of the stolen billion from the Moldovan banking system. The protesters were calling for the release of the State institutions from the influence of oligarch Plahotniuc.

During one of the peaceful rallies held in front of the Prosecutor General's Office, the leader of the opposition Red Bloc Party, Grigore Petrenco and other activists involved were arrested.

The detainees were charged with organisations of and participation in mass riots. Under Article 285 of the Moldovan Criminal Code they risk to get up to 8 years in prison.

The basic civil rights and freedoms in a democracy include freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the right to protest. The Republic of Moldova, as a full-fledged member State of the Council of Europe, shall be bound to honour all the commitments it assumed when joining the Council of Europe.

We resolutely condemn the very grave violations of the rights and freedoms in the Republic of Moldova, and the political repression unleashed against the opposition representatives.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



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

KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
CRAUSBY David, United Kingdom, SOC  
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL  
FABRITIUS Bernd, Germany, EPP/CD  
FAZZONE Claudio, Italy, EPP/CD  
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC  
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD  
FRONC Martin, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD  
GIRO Francesco Maria, Italy, EPP/CD  
GOSSELIN-FLEURY Geneviève, France, SOC  
HANŽEK Matjaž, Slovenia, UEL  
HÜBNER Johannes, Austria, NR  
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL  
JAKAVONIS Gediminas, Lithuania, ALDE  
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL  
KHADER Qais, Palestine  
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL  
LARSEN Aaja Chemnitz, Denmark, UEL  
LOUKAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL  
NEGUTA Andrei, Republic of Moldova, SOC  
PECKOVÁ Gabriela, Czech Republic, EPP/CD  
RECORDON Luc, Switzerland, SOC  
RZAYEV Rovshan, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD  
SCHIEDER Andreas, Austria, SOC  
ŠEPIĆ Senad, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD  
VERCAMER Stefaan, Belgium, EPP/CD  
VĚSAITĚ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC  
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL  
VOVK Viktor, Ukraine, EC  
WOLD Morten, Norway, EC  
ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE

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Total = 30

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EC: European Conservatives 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