Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 13895
30 September 2015

Towards a democratic approach to the issues of governance in European multinational States

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Stefan SCHENNACH and other members of the Assembly

---

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

---

The right to self-determination is recognised as an essential principle of international law. It is established in the United Nations Charter and associated Covenants; in recent years, the Council of Europe has led the way in standard-setting with the development of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Ets no. 157).

Council of Europe member States such as the United Kingdom, where a referendum on the independence of Scotland was held in 2014, and Denmark, where the government has made it clear that the Faroe Islands and Greenland have the right to self-determination and would be allowed a referendum on independence if they requested one, are recent examples of how Europe leads the way on this issue.

Self-determination movements are active across the Council of Europe region; they base their legitimacy on the broad support of the populations in their territories and their own internal democratic standards, including a rejection of violence. They have been instrumental in establishing protection for minorities and more representative democratic governance in many Council of Europe member States. The Parliamentary Assembly should examine the question of self-determination of European regions.

Also discussion of independence should take place in a peaceful and democratic dialogue between the relevant region and the State government, as was the case with Council of Europe member States like the United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

Europe should be applying the best practices on self-determination across the continent.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
BABAYAN Vahan, Armenia, EC
CRUCHTEN Yves, Luxembourg, SOC
CSENGER-ZALÁN Zsolt, Hungary, EPP/CD
DUMERY Daphné, Belgium, NR
GAMBARO Adele, Italy, ALDE
GARÐARSSON Karl, Iceland, ALDE
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
GROZDANOVA Dzhema, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HÜBNER Johannes, Austria, NR
JAKAVONIS Gediminas, Lithuania, ALDE
JÓNASSON Ögmundur, Iceland, UEL
JORDANA MADERO Carles, Andorra, ALDE
KARAPETYAN Naira, Armenia, EPP/CD
KATRIVANOU Vasiliki, Greece, UEL
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LEYDEN Terry, Ireland, ALDE
LOUKAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MATEU PI Meritxell, Andorra, ALDE
McNAMARA Michael, Ireland, SOC
NAGHDALYAN Hermine, Armenia, EC
PALLARÉS CORTÉS Judith, Andorra, ALDE
RECORDON Luc, Switzerland, SOC
TILKI Attila, Hungary, EPP/CD
VALEN Snorre Serigstad, Norway, UEL
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VĖSAITĖ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
ZECH Tobias, Germany, EPP/CD
ZOURABIAN Levon, Armenia, ALDE

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