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Moldova is urged to refrain from any intimidation of politicians, activists and key witnesses

Written declaration No. 617

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.

Since 2015, thousands of Moldovans have rallied against lawlessness, corruption, oligarchy dictatorship and demanded that those involved in the case of the stolen billion dollars from the Moldovan banking system be brought to justice. Protesters were calling for independence of the State institutions from the influence of oligarchs. Key witnesses, such as Victor and Viorel Topa, Vyacheslav Platon-Kobalev who publicly expressed their willingness to testify about the involvement of tycoon Plahotniuc in money laundering and illegal financial operations, were subjected to political persecution.

On 29 August 2016, Mr Platon-Kobalev was illegally extradited to Moldova by chartered plane from Ukraine. The human rights organisation Amnesty International expressed its concern over the fact that in Moldova, Mr Platon-Kobalev is being held in custody in inhumane conditions of detention.

In its recent Resolution No. 1955 (2013) the Parliamentary Assembly revealed serious dysfunctions of the Prosecutor's Office and other law enforcement institutions. It highlighted the need for de-politicisation of State institutions and ensuring a better separation of powers, and emphasised that "State institutions should never serve only one party's or one individual's interests".

We hereby call on the Moldovan authorities to respect all their commitments in the field of human rights and to refrain from any intimidation of politicians, activists and key witnesses.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE
BAKOYANNIS Theodora, Greece, EPP/CD
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
GONÇALVES Carlos Alberto, Portugal, EPP/CD
HANŽEK Matjaž, Slovenia, UEL
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HOPKINS Maura, Ireland, EPP/CD
JONICA Snežana, Montenegro, SOC
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
LEITE RAMOS Luís, Portugal, EPP/CD
LEYDEN Terry, Ireland, ALDE
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MARQUES Duarte, Portugal, EPP/CD
MULLEN Rónán, Ireland, EPP/CD
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
PASQUIER Bernard, Monaco, ALDE
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE

Total = 21

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