



Doc. 14459

19 December 2017

Defending the values and credibility of the Council of Europe

Written declaration No. 648

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.

We reiterate that the Parliamentary Assembly is an integral part of the Council of Europe and one of its statutory bodies. Its decisions remain a powerful tool in defending human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The strength of Assembly decisions is based exclusively on its authority and will remain in force until the Assembly maintains this authority and abides by its own decisions.

We regret that certain forces are trying to undermine the authority of the Assembly and the Council of Europe as a whole, infringing the statutory foundations of the Organisation and the incontestability of the obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Any attempt to restore the Russian Federation in the Assembly without the implementation of the resolutions adopted in response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine will shatter the institutional credibility of the Assembly and will cause a domino effect. Political expediency or financial viability cannot substitute the principles of the rule of law when it comes to the foundations of the Council of Europe.

We urge all members of the Assembly to do their utmost with a view to stopping this scenario, preserving the authority of the Assembly and defending our common values.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
ARENT Iwona, Poland, EC
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BESELIA Eka, Georgia, SOC
CEPEDA José, Spain, SOC
ENGBLOM Annicka, Sweden, EPP/CD
FISCHER Axel, Germany, EPP/CD
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EC
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GOGUADZE Nino, Georgia, EC
GUTIÉRREZ Antonio, Spain, SOC
HOPKINS Maura, Ireland, EPP/CD
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
KLEINBERGA Nellija, Latvia, ALDE
KORENJAK KRAMAR Ksenija, Slovenia, ALDE
LEITE RAMOS Luís, Portugal, EPP/CD
LOGVYNSKYI Georgii, Ukraine, EPP/CD
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MADISON Jaak, Estonia, EC
MALLIA Emanuel, Malta, SOC
MASIULIS Kęstutis, Lithuania, EPP/CD
MERGEN Martine, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
MIKKO Marianne, Estonia, SOC
MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, EC
OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria, Netherlands, EPP/CD
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
PODERYS Virgilijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
POLIAČIK Martin, Slovak Republic, ALDE
PREDA Cezar Florin, Romania, EPP/CD
TAMAŠUNIENĖ Rita, Lithuania, EC
TARCZYŃSKI Dominik, Poland, EC
VLASENKO Sergiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
YEMETS Leonid, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 35

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group