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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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The authorities of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine are urged to cease harassment and political prosecution of pro-reform forces

Written declaration No. 637

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.

Both the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have signed European Union Association Agreements (AA), agreeing to fulfill European Union requirements regarding the implementation of extensive reforms.

It is our serious concern that, as of the end of 2016, the indicators of the reform implementation in Ukraine have gradually dropped.Moreover, a dangerous policy of the government-led reprisals against pro-reform forces and activists, including the ruling coalition's own MPs, such as Svitlana Zalishchuk, has been observed. It is unacceptable that representatives of Self Reliance and Democratic Alliance political parties, including Andriy Sadovyi and Maksym Cherkasenko; activists of the anti-corruption watchdog 'Anti-Corruption Action Centre', such as Alexandra Ustinova, and investigative journalists become victims of political persecution and harassment.

An even more worrying situation is observed in the Republic of Moldova, as underlined in the Written Declaration No. 623 and Resolution No. 1955 (2013). We hereby condemn the political pressure on judges who refuse to issue politically motivated decisions and arrest warrants, e.g. in the case of Ana Ursachi. We hereby urge the authorities to implement the recommendations of the Venice Commission, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the European Union on the new electoral law.

The authorities of both States must honour their accession commitments and cease political prosecution and harassment.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE
ARENT Iwona, Poland, EC
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
CRUCHTEN Yves, Luxembourg, SOC
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
GRIN Jean-Pierre, Switzerland, ALDE
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
KIRAL Serhii, Ukraine, EC
KLEINBERGA Nellija, Latvia, ALDE
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MÜLLER Thomas, Switzerland, ALDE
ORELLANA Luis Alberto, Italy, SOC
RIGONI Andrea, Italy, ALDE
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE
VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE
WOJTYŁA Andrzej, Poland, EC
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 23

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
   NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group