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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Turkey must restore the right to freedom of expression and assembly to LGBTI persons

Written declaration No. 650

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.

On November 9, President Erdogan, in a television speech, criticised a municipality run by the main opposition party for a policy supporting LGBTI persons. Nine days later, the Ankara governor banned all LGBTI-related events in the province for an indefinite period, including a film festival supported by the German Embassy. This followed an editorial in a popular daily newspaper entitled "Support for the perverts by the German Embassy". The governorship listed "social sensitivities and sensibilities" and "protection of public health and morality" amongst the reasons for the ban.

Film showings and discussion panels in some other towns have been shut down. There has also been a marked increase in hate speech against LGBTI people in the media and online.

Recent years have seen the banning of all public demonstrations in support of LGBTI rights in Turkey. These latest developments take Turkey one step closer to the complete suppression of the right to expression and assembly in support of LGBTI persons.

We are gravely concerned at this growing intolerance towards LGBTI persons. We call upon the authorities to ensure that the Ankara ban is reversed immediately and that the right of LGBTI persons to freedom of expression and assembly is restored.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
AZZOPARDI Jason, Malta, EPP/CD
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BLAHA Ľuboš, Slovak Republic, SOC
BLAZINA Tamara, Italy, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL
BUSHATI Ervin, Albania, SOC
CEPEDA José, Spain, SOC
CHRISTENSEN Jette, Norway, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
COAKER Vernon, United Kingdom, SOC
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
CROWE Seán, Ireland, UEL
DE TEMMERMAN Jennifer, France, NR
EIDE Petter, Norway, UEL
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GRECH Etienne, Malta, SOC
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
GUZENINA Maria, Finland, SOC
HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
HUOVINEN Susanna, Finland, SOC
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
JONES Susan Elan, United Kingdom, SOC
KARLSSON Niklas, Sweden, SOC
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL
KELLEHER Colette, Ireland, SOC
KERESTECİOĞLU DEMİR Filiz, Turkey, UEL
KERN Claude, France, ALDE
KOVÁCS Elvira, Serbia, EPP/CD
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KRONBICHLER Florian, Italy, SOC
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
KYRIAKIDES Stella, Cyprus, EPP/CD
LAMBERT Jérôme, France, SOC
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
LOVOCHKINA Yuliya, Ukraine, SOC
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
MALLIA Emanuel, Malta, SOC
MASSEY Doreen, United Kingdom, SOC
MAVROTAS Georgios, Greece, SOC

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

McCARTHY Kerry, United Kingdom, SOC
MIKKO Marianne, Estonia, SOC
NAUDI ZAMORA Víctor, Andorra, SOC
NISSINEN Johan, Sweden, NR
NORDQVIST Rasmus, Denmark, UEL
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
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PISCO Paulo, Portugal, SOC
PSYCHOGIOS Georgios, Greece, UEL
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHIEDER Andreas, Austria, SOC
SCHNEIDER-SCHNEITER Elisabeth, Switzerland, EPP/CD
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SMITH Angela, United Kingdom, SOC
SØNDERGAARD Søren, Denmark, UEL
SORRE Bertrand, France, NR
STELLINI David, Malta, EPP/CD
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
TOMIĆ Violeta, Slovenia, UEL
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC
TOUHIG Don, United Kingdom, SOC
WHITFIELD Martin, United Kingdom, SOC
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, NR

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