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24 January 2019

## **Attacks on civil society, independent media and opposition in the Republic of Moldova must end**

**Written declaration No. 669**

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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.

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According to the latest *Report on the implementation of the European Union Association Agreement with Moldova (A8-0322/2018)* adopted by the European Parliament, the Republic of Moldova remains trapped by oligarchic interests, with economic and political power in the hands of Vlad Plahotniuc exerting his influence on parliament, the government and State administration, police, judiciary and media.

We are deeply concerned that the abuse of power of the country's parliament, used to persecute the leading opposition parties, judges, lawyers and international NGOs struggling for the rule of law and human rights, constitutes a serious harm for the reputation of the Moldovan authorities.

The recent attacks on the Open Dialogue Foundation and its leader, Lyudmyla Kozlovska, including a large defamation campaign, a parliamentary investigation commission and, possibly, a criminal prosecution, set a dangerous precedent paving the way for similar persecution of other critical organisations. It is an urgent warning for the European and international community.

We fully support the call of the European Parliament to the Moldovan authorities to address these concerns. The persecutions must immediately end or those responsible for them have to be held accountable, including Magnitsky-like sanctions for violating both local laws and the country's international obligations, while benefiting from the widespread corruption.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD  
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD  
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL  
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC  
GATTOLIN André, France, NR  
HAMOUSOVÁ Zdeňka, Czech Republic, ALDE  
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL  
KELLY Alan, Ireland, SOC  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL  
NENUTIL Miroslav, Czech Republic, SOC  
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL  
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL  
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL  
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC  
REISS Frédéric, France, EPP/CD  
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SHARMA Virendra, United Kingdom, SOC  
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR  
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC  
STROE Ionuț-Marian, Romania, EPP/CD  
VALENTA Jiří, Czech Republic, UEL  
VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE  
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

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Total = 26

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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