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12 February 2019

## **Financial assistance for Kazakhstan must be withheld unless significant human rights progress is made**

**Written declaration No. 663**

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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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As mentioned in written declaration No. 660, over 140 people were detained and about 40 were incarcerated. Iskander Yerimbetov, Ablovas Dzhumayev, Kezhenbek Abishev, Almat Zhumagulov, Muratbek Tungishbayev are examples of many politically persecuted persons who are deprived of the right to a fair trial. The Council of Europe must call upon the Kazakhstani authorities to immediately release 30 individuals listed by the Political Prisoners Protection Committee and to stop prosecuting peaceful protesters, bloggers and lawyers.

On 7 October 2018, Kazakhstani human rights defender Elena Semenova was banned from leaving the country to participate in meetings with members of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The European Union financed the € 5,5 million project “Enhancing Criminal Justice in Kazakhstan”, while the Council of Europe and the European Union co-financed the programme “Support to the Kazakh Authorities in Improving the Quality and Efficiency of the Kazakh Justice System”. According to the reports of human rights watchdogs and independent international watchdogs, the officially presented outcomes do not correspond to reality.

We urge the European Union and the Council of Europe to withhold the financial support for Kazakhstan, unless it makes genuine progress in terms of human rights.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



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

OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD  
BARDELL Hannah, United Kingdom, NR  
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC  
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE  
COAKER Vernon, United Kingdom, SOC  
CORREIA Telmo, Portugal, EPP/CD  
CREASY Stella, United Kingdom, SOC  
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE  
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL  
GOODWILL Robert, United Kingdom, EC  
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC  
GURMAI Zita, Hungary, SOC  
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC  
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC  
JONES Susan Elan, United Kingdom, SOC  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
MULLEN Rónán, Ireland, EPP/CD  
MUNYAMA Killion, Poland, EPP/CD  
MURRAY Ian, United Kingdom, SOC  
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC  
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC  
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
SHEHU Tritan, Albania, EPP/CD  
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE  
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC  
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC  
TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof, Poland, ALDE  
VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE  
WHITFIELD Martin, United Kingdom, SOC  
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

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Total = 33

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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  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group