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Ukraine should stop discrimination of out-of-country Ukrainians voting rights

Written declaration No. 673

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.

Around 98% of almost 10 million Ukrainian citizens abroad cannot fully use their right to vote. They also don't have direct representatives in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and they struggle hard to obtain some internal political voice, in defence of their fundamental constitutional rights "to elect and to be elected".

Taking into account the strong involvement of Ukrainian expatriates since the Euromaidan revolution in defending the interest of their country worldwide, the Ukrainian Government should pay more attention and think about how to ensure quotas for representatives of Ukrainian citizens from the out-of-country constituencies. According to the Council of Europe member States' best practices, the out-of-country election procedures could also include the voting by post, for citizens living abroad.

Another issue of concern is the discrimination of the rights of binational Ukrainian migrants regarding their impossibility to work in the civil service of their country of origin, according to the law voted in 2016.

Migrants can bring strong intellectual and financial resources for democratic transformations in their home countries. The issues related to the participation of Ukrainian expatriates in Ukraine's current reform processes are of major importance and we ask the Ukrainian Government for special vigilance regarding the respect of their fundamental constitutional rights.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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Total = 25

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