Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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1949.2019

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 14938
28 June 2019

Safeguard the democratic rights of Catalan parliamentarians

Written declaration No. 687

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.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

In a very worrying way, Spanish authorities are denying the democratic right of the three elected Members of the European Parliament (MEP) Oriol Junqueras, Toni Comín, and Carles Puigdemont to take office.

Puigdemont and Comin are in exile due to politically motivated legal proceedings for their role in the 2017 referendum on Catalan self-determination. The Spanish Electoral Authority obliges them to go to Madrid to formally take their seats. This would lead to their arrest, given the active arrest warrants against them.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in opinion 6/2019 considered the ongoing detention of Junqueras and other Catalan leaders as arbitrary and asked for their immediate release. In contrast, the Spanish Supreme Court denied Junqueras to leave prison to take up his seat as MEP.

We welcome the initiative of 76 MEPs from five political groups who, on 17 June 2019, sent a letter to the Bureau members of the European Parliament asking to recognise and protect the political rights of the aforementioned elected MEPs.

We call on the Spanish authorities to stop blocking the newly elected MEPs from taking office and on the European Parliament to support all its elected members in taking their seats in parliament.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
AKBULUT Gökay, Germany, UEL
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL
BUSHATI Ervin, Albania, SOC
DÜNDAR Pero, Turkey, UEL
EIDE Petter, Norway, UEL
FILIPE António, Portugal, UEL
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
GORROTXATEGUI Miren, Spain, UEL
GRIMOLDI Paolo, Italy, NR
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
NICOLINI Marco, San Marino, UEL
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
RIBOLLA Alberto, Italy, NR
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
SARAMO Jussi, Finland, UEL
TOMIĆ Violeta, Slovenia, UEL
UCA Feleknas, Turkey, UEL

Total = 23

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1. 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