

Doc. 14949
05 July 2019

Follow-up to Resolution 2276 (2019): stop hate speech and acts of hatred in sport

Written declaration No. 690

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:

Notwithstanding [Resolution 2276 \(2019\)](#) of the Parliamentary Assembly, there are still worrying cases of racist, xenophobic, sexist and homophobic speech and acts in sport that largely remain uncondemned.

Sport is about providing opportunities to develop people-to-people connections, engaging people from various backgrounds, promoting mutual respect and tolerance: discriminatory ideas have no place here.

Spectators and players should have the right to attend sports events without fear of targeted violence, public disorder or other criminal activity. Council of Europe's Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events is the most ambitious legal instrument on the subject. However, there are cases where States declared in their ratification credentials that the Convention shall not be applied in respect to another State Party, neglecting its purpose and object. States, having a discriminatory approach towards any State, race, ethnicity or human groups, should not be considered as a venue for international sport events in the future.

The recent example of Azerbaijan's refusal to let Armenian nationals enter the country to attend the UEFA Europa League final is alarming, and it is deeply disconcerting that an Armenian footballer was unable to play in the final, due to security concerns related to his ethnicity.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

HAYRAPETYAN Tatevik, Armenia, EPP/CD
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
AVETISYAN Sos, Armenia, SOC
BERTI Francesco, Italy, NR
BILLI Simone, Italy, NR
CHRISTIANSSON Alexander, Sweden, EC
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
HOPUSU Inka, Finland, SOC
IGITYAN Hovhannes, Armenia, ALDE
KILJUNEN Kimmo, Finland, SOC
LE NAY Jacques, France, ALDE
MARUKYAN Edmon, Armenia, ALDE
MASŁOWSKI Maciej, Poland, EC
MELKUMYAN Mikayel, Armenia, EC
RIBOLLA Alberto, Italy, NR
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
VARDANYAN Vladimir, Armenia, EPP/CD
VOGT Günter, Liechtenstein, ALDE
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, EC

Total = 21

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
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group