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Investigating and preventing corruption at the Council of Europe

Written declaration No. 677

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 2017, the Council of Europe was shaken by a huge corruption scandal. Italian prosecutors had discovered that a former Parliamentary Assembly member had received almost 2.4 million euros from an Azerbaijani Assembly member.

The Assembly commissioned an external investigation which concluded that "there was a strong suspicion that certain current and former members of PACE had engaged in activity of a corruptive nature." The Assembly banned 15 former members for life from access to the Assembly premises. It also strengthened its ethical framework.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Committee of Ministers did not investigate into the behaviour of Azerbaijan, accused of having directed the corruptive actions.

Before the election of the new Secretary General, both candidates should commit to:

– initiating independent external investigations into possible corruption conducted by any state and state-linked actors in all Council of Europe institutions over the last ten years;

– submitting to the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly a proposal on a well-financed mechanism that will allow for quick and automatic investigations in cases of serious allegations of corruption in all parts of the Organisation in the future;

– implementing a secure whistleblowing procedure at the Council of Europe that will support and protect individuals who expose illegal or unethical practices.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
AVETISYAN Sos, Armenia, SOC
AZZOPARDI Jason, Malta, EPP/CD
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BOUYX Bertrand, France, NR
BROUWERS Karin, Belgium, EPP/CD
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
CHRISTIANSSON Alexander, Sweden, EC
CORLĂŢEAN Titus, Romania, SOC
DAEMS Rik, Belgium, ALDE
DOUBLE Steve, United Kingdom, EC
EBERLE-STRUB Susanne, Liechtenstein, ALDE
ENGBLOM Annicka, Sweden, EPP/CD
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EC
GENTVILAS Simonas, Lithuania, ALDE
GOGUADZE Nino, Georgia, EC
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC
GRAAS Gusty, Luxembourg, ALDE
HAYRAPETYAN Tatevik, Armenia, EPP/CD
HEER Alfred, Switzerland, ALDE
HEINRICH Frank, Germany, EPP/CD
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
HETTO-GAASCH Françoise, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
IELENSKYI Viktor, Ukraine, EPP/CD
IGITYAN Hovhannes, Armenia, ALDE
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KARAMANLI Marietta, France, SOC
KERN Claude, France, ALDE
KIRAL Serhii, Ukraine, EC
KITEV Betian, North Macedonia, SOC
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
LE NAY Jacques, France, ALDE
LIDDELL-GRAINGER Ian, United Kingdom, EC
LORSCHÉ Josée, Luxembourg, SOC
MARUKYAN Edmon, Armenia, ALDE
MELKUMYAN Mikayel, Armenia, EC
NĚMCOVÁ Miroslava, Czech Republic, EC
NICK Andreas, Germany, EPP/CD
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
POLIAČIK Martin, Slovak Republic, ALDE
PRUIDZE Irina, Georgia, EC
REISS Frédéric, France, EPP/CD
RIEF Josef, Germany, EPP/CD
RODRÍGUEZ HERNÁNDEZ Melisa, Spain, ALDE
RÖSSNER Tabea, Germany, SOC
RUBINYAN Ruben, Armenia, EPP/CD
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC

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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

SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SOBOLIEV Serhii, Ukraine, EPP/CD
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
SPAUTZ Marc, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
TAMAŠUNIENĖ Rita, Lithuania, EC
VALLINI André, France, SOC
VARDANYAN Vladimir, Armenia, EPP/CD
VIROLAINEN Anne-Mari, Finland, EPP/CD
VOGT Günter, Liechtenstein, ALDE
WASERMAN Sylvain, France, ALDE
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC
WISELER Claude, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
YEMETS Leonid, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, EC

Total = 67