Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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The role of political parties in fostering diversity and inclusion: a new Charter for a non-racist society

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Momodou Malcolm JALLOW and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Political parties have a crucial role to play in countering racism and intolerance, promoting diversity and fostering inclusion. They are the main gatekeepers of elected bodies and largely contribute to shaping the political discourse. In addition, they enjoy a wide autonomy in regulating their internal functioning and the duties of their members.

In 1998, a Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society, drawn up under the auspices of the European Union Consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia (predecessor of the Fundamental Rights Agency), was opened for signature in Utrecht. It was endorsed by the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and subsequently signed by numerous political parties. Signatory parties committed themselves to reject all forms of racist violence and to strive for fair representation of groups that are victims of racism and intolerance.

Assembly Resolution 2275 (2019) "The role and responsibilities of political leaders in combating hate speech and intolerance" recommended that, in face of rising populism and intolerance, the Charter should be revitalised and updated to reflect this evolution of European societies. Social media, widely used in political communication and at the same time permeated by hate speech, should be part of the focus of the new, revised Charter.

The Assembly's No Hate Parliamentary Alliance has undertaken specific co-operation with the Anti-discrimination and Racism Intergroup of the European Parliament (ARDI), the ECRI and the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) to define relevant and timely provisions and enhance political support to the forthcoming updated Charter.

After the redrafting process, the Assembly should approve and endorse the new version of the Charter, calling on all political parties to adhere to it and abide by it in their activities.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
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SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
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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