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The need to ensure free access to historical documents

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Boriss CILEVIČS and other members of the Assembly

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

In June 2013, a broad assembly of experts from international organisations, civil society and academic centres adopted the “Global Principles on National Security and the Right to Information” designed to give guidance to legislators and relevant officials with a view to reaching an appropriate balance between public interests both in national security and in access to information. The Parliamentary Assembly, in its [Resolution 1954 \(2013\)](#) and [Recommendation 2024 \(2013\)](#) “National security and access to information”, strongly supported these principles.

Nevertheless, several member States still restrict free access of researchers and civil society to information, in particular, with regard to access to historical documents and archives related to the periods of authoritarian rule or dictatorship. Reference to national security considerations, as well as protection of personal life, are groundlessly used to justify the restriction of access.

Full clarification of the tragedies of the past is necessary to avoid repetition of these tragedies.

Therefore, the Assembly should decide to study the situation in the member States with regard to access to historical documents with a view to preparing relevant practical recommendations.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
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SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left