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Political reform in Kazakhstan responsive to the needs and ambitions of its citizens

Written declaration No. 729

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:

We welcome the decision by the Kazakh authorities to abolish the death penalty entirely by signing the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

We mostly welcome the statement of the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the General Debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly where he underlined the strong position of the State to fulfil the fundamental right to life and human dignity and his decision to join the Second Optional Protocol.

This decision is in keeping with the values and principles of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as set out in [Resolution 2193 \(2017\)](#) "The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan". This also shows the determination of Kazakhstan to combat this cruel and inhuman penalty and follow the growing abolitionist trend.

Kazakhstan is an important partner of the Council of Europe in the context of the second "Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Kazakhstan" adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 4 April 2019.

We therefore call on Kazakhstan to follow the previously announced principles to build a democratically developed and human rights-oriented State.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

ANDRIKIENĖ Laima Liucija, Lithuania, EPP/CD
ARPADARAI Nigar, Azerbaijan, EC/DA
GADIRLI Erkin, Azerbaijan, EC/DA
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC/DA
GRIFFITHS Leslie, United Kingdom, SOC
GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio, Spain, SOC
HORGA Maria-Gabriela, Romania, EPP/CD
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KAMELCHUK Yuriy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
KILJUNEN Kimmo, Finland, SOC
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LLOYD Tony, United Kingdom, SOC
LOVOCHKINA Yuliya, Ukraine, SOC
LYDEKA Arminas, Lithuania, ALDE
MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, EC/DA
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SCOMA Francesco, Italy, EPP/CD
SEYIDOV Samad, Azerbaijan, EC/DA
TAFROV Stefan, Bulgaria
VARDANYAN Vladimir, Armenia, EPP/CD
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA
YASKO Yelyzaveta, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ZAHARIEVA Ekaterina, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 24

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left