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Follow-up to the expulsion of the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe: staff issues

Written declaration No. 743

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:

On 16 March 2022, the Russian Federation was expelled from the Council of Europe. Despite this fact, following the Secretary General's notes to the Committee of Ministers on the staff matters, approximately 80 Russian staff members will/may continue their employment within the Organisation.

Continued employment of these staff members is contrary to the Organisation's well-established rule that only citizens of member States may be employed.

Their continued employment poses a risk to the climate of trust which must be maintained and strengthened between the Organisation and the governments of member States, especially those which are direct victims of the Russian aggression.

Most Russian staff members are engaged in advisory and/or managerial duties, as administrators. At least 20 are directly involved in and/or responsible for the decision-making process regarding the Organisation's policies, strategies, and activities. A decision to retain such staff creates a ground for potential conflict of interest in the functioning of the Organisation, given its mission, and undermines its credibility.

We urge the leadership of the Organisation to be consistent in their staff policy with the unanimous political position of the member States towards the Russian Federation and take urgent appropriate measures to terminate all such contracts.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

MEZENTSEVA Mariia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ABRAHAM Knut, Germany, EPP/CD
BARDINA Maryna, Ukraine, ALDE
BILOZIR Larysa, Ukraine, ALDE
BUDRIKIS Uldis, Latvia, EPP/CD
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
DAVIES Geraint, United Kingdom, SOC
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC/DA
HOFFMANN Christoph, Germany, ALDE
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
KALJULAID Raimond, Estonia
KAMELCHUK Yuriy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
KHOMENKO Olena, Ukraine, EC/DA
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia, Ukraine, ALDE
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
KUBIAK Marta, Poland, EC/DA
LATOS Tomasz, Poland, EC/DA
LEYTE Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
LĪBIŅA-EGNERE Inese, Latvia, EPP/CD
MEREZHKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, EC/DA
MOSHENETS Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, EC/DA
NATALUKHA Dmytro, Ukraine, EC/DA
NYKIEL Mirosława, Poland, EPP/CD
OVCHYNNYKOVA Yuliia, Ukraine, ALDE
SOBOLIEV Serhii, Ukraine, EPP/CD
SUSHKO Pavlo, Ukraine, EC/DA
SZEJNA Andrzej, Poland, SOC
VALENTIN Kim, Denmark, ALDE
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 31

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