



Doc. 15641

18 October 2022

Albania, a recent example of the use of public authority for political purposes

Written declaration No. 756

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 22 September 2022, the Albanian Government cancelled two Turkish educational institutions due to an alleged relocation procedure. This closure was assessed by lawyers, academics and civil society as an arbitrary decision of the Albanian Government due to pressure from the Turkish authorities.

For more than seven years, Turkish foreign policy made it its mission to close educational institutions perceived as embarrassing to the Erdogan government. The Turkish President used the weight of his office to reach out to the Albanian authorities and other governments by calling for the closure of schools founded by a certain group of Turkish nationals, who were in the opposition. These attempts to close schools were often followed by kidnappings and illegal extraditions. Cases of abduction of Turkish teachers have occurred on the same scenario in the Republic of Moldova (see [Doc. 14649](#) "Calling on the Republic of Moldova to restore the rule of law") and have led to the condemnation of the country by the European Court of Human Rights. We are concerned that Albania, as an EU candidate country, does not respect the rule of law by deciding politically under external pressure.

The Parliamentary Assembly should follow this case and call upon Albania to respect the rule of law.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thórhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
ÅSEBOL Ann-Britt, Sweden, EPP/CD
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, SOC
CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL
DAVIES Geraint, United Kingdom, SOC
FERNANDES Emmanuel, France, UEL
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GARVEY Róisín, Ireland, SOC
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GRIN Jean-Pierre, Switzerland, ALDE
HÖCHST Nicole, Germany, EC/DA
KILJUNEN Kimmo, Finland, SOC
KLEINWÄCHTER Norbert, Germany, EC/DA
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
MARINELLO Gaspare Antonio, Italy, NR
MILON Alain, France, EPP/CD
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC

Total = 20

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
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group