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Electoral integrity under potential threat in Türkiye

Written declaration No. 772

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 14 May 2023, Türkiye will hold the most important elections of the last decade. Located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Türkiye plays an extremely important role in the global balance of power, and the upcoming elections will therefore have far-reaching implications for the country's domestic trajectory, its neighbourhood, and the world.

Given the common concerns regarding judicial independence in Türkiye and the recent legislative changes regarding the selection of judges in charge of electoral processes, we share the awareness expressed in international reports about upcoming elections in Türkiye and the potential threat to electoral integrity, a crucial element in ensuring trust in democratic institutions.

Therefore, we call on all official bodies responsible for the security of the elections, from the Supreme Electoral Council to the judges in the smallest towns, to guarantee that these elections are fairly and legally conducted. Nothing in the new election law adopted on 31 March 2022 should endanger the security of the elections.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will closely observe the elections to ensure that they are in line with Council of Europe standards and other international standards, as well as national legislation.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
CORBYN Jeremy, United Kingdom, SOC
DOWNE Percy, Canada
FILATOV Tarja, Finland, SOC
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
HÖCHST Nicole, Germany, EC/DA
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KATROUGALOS George, Greece, UEL
KILJUNEN Kimmo, Finland, SOC
KOVÁCS Elvira, Serbia, EPP/CD
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus, Romania, EC/DA
PIECHA Bolesław, Poland, EC/DA
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
RAMÍREZ BARBA Éctor Jaime, Mexico
SAAR Indrek, Estonia, SOC
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
ŠELIGA Juraj, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR
SKÚLADÓTTIR Jódís, Iceland, UEL
ŚMISZEK Krzysztof, Poland, SOC
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE
UNNELAND Andreas Sjaalg, Norway, UEL
VALENTIN Kim, Denmark, ALDE
WEYEL Harald, Germany, EC/DA

Total = 23

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