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## The recent increase in the number of desecrations of Polish graves in Belarus

**Written declaration No. 763**

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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.

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We, the undersigned, declare the following:

We note with deep concern the recent increase in the number of wilful desecrations of graves in numerous Belarus cemeteries – raised in memory of Poles who died in the course of the Second World War.

This vandalism coincides in time with intensified anti-Polish campaigns launched in Belarus State media – presumably in reaction to Poland's determined assistance to Ukraine in the latter's heroic defence against Russian invasion forces. This would suggest at least the connivance of Belarus authorities as regards these despicable actions.

We further note that the destruction of the cultural heritage, including cemeteries, is strictly prohibited by international treaties, as well as in Belarusian law.

We, in conclusion, appeal to the Government of Belarus to put an urgent halt to the above-mentioned desecrations, and hope that the international community, in particular within the Council of Europa area, will join in supporting this demand.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA  
ÅBERG Boriána, Sweden, EPP/CD  
AIKEN Nickie, United Kingdom, EC/DA  
BRABANDERE Bob, De, Belgium, EC/DA  
DECROIX Eva, Czech Republic, EC/DA  
FRANÇOIS Thibaut, France, EC/DA  
GALLES Paul, Luxembourg, EPP/CD  
GIDEON Jo, United Kingdom, EC/DA  
GÖTHBERG Gustaf, Sweden, EPP/CD  
GRAAS Gusty, Luxembourg, ALDE  
GRAF Martin, Austria, EC/DA  
GROZA Ion, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD  
HART Sally-Ann, United Kingdom, EC/DA  
HEMMEN Cécile, Luxembourg, SOC  
LATHAM Pauline, United Kingdom, EC/DA  
LIDDELL-GRAINGER Ian, United Kingdom, EC/DA  
LORSCHÉ Josée, Luxembourg, SOC  
MEREZHKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, EC/DA  
MODERT Octavie, Luxembourg, EPP/CD  
MORTIMER Jill, United Kingdom, EC/DA  
MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, EC/DA  
MURRAY Sheryll, United Kingdom, EC/DA  
NATALUKHA Dmytro, Ukraine, EC/DA  
NIIKKO Mika, Finland, EC/DA  
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD  
SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA José María, Spain, EC/DA  
ŠLESERS Ričards, Latvia, NR  
STEGRUD Jessica, Sweden, EC/DA  
TAMAŠUNIENĖ Rita, Lithuania, EC/DA  
TIMGREN Beatrice, Sweden, EC/DA  
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

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Total = 31

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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  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group