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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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

Written declaration No. 763

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 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[1]*:*

WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
AIKEN Nickie, United Kingdom, EC/DA
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DECROIX Eva, Czech Republic, EC/DA
FRANÇOIS Thibaut, France, EC/DA
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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
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MODERT Octavie, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
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ŠLESERS Ričards, Latvia, NR
STEGRUD Jessica, Sweden, EC/DA
TAMAŠUNIENĖ Rita, Lithuania, EC/DA
TIMGREN Beatrice, Sweden, EC/DA
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
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group