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The banning case of the Democratic Society Party (DTP)

Written declaration No. 417

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.

The undersigned,

1. Are deeply concerned by the ongoing closure case against the Democratic Society Party (DTP) in Turkey.
2. The party is dedicated to democratic principles and forms the fourth largest faction in the Turkish National Assembly.
3. The banning of political parties which play a fundamental role in pluralistic democracies violates the freedom to organise and the freedom of speech. Furthermore, the banning of the DTP which has an important mission for the solution of the Kurdish issue, one of Turkey's major problems, would deal a blow to efforts to solve the problem through peaceful and political means.
4. The banning of 24 parties in Turkey up to the present day created many problems for the democratic process and did not solve any. In the same manner, the banning of the DTP will not help to solve the Kurdish issue but further aggravate it.
5. We are convinced that the DTP should not be closed but that the Turkish Government should enter into a dialogue with the DTP to facilitate a solution for Turkey's major problems, including the Kurdish issue.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden
BANIAS Ioannis, Greece
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
BROCKA Július, Slovak Republic
ČURDOVÁ Anna, Czech Republic
DZEMBRITZKI Detlef, Germany
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
FRAHM Pernille, Denmark, UEL
HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC
JACOBSEN Bjørn, Norway
JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland, SOC
KONEČNÝ Albrecht, Austria, SOC
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LECOQ Jean-Paul, France, UEL
LINDBLAD Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD
LOTMAN Aleksei, Estonia, UEL
MARMAZOV Yevhen, Ukraine, UEL
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
NACHTMANNOVÁ Oľga, Slovak Republic
O'HARA Edward, United Kingdom
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC
SOBKO Sergey, Russian Federation
VIS Rudi, United Kingdom

Total = 24

1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left