Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 13201
29 April 2013

Prosecution of the Labour Party (Darbo partija) in Lithuania

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Gediminas JAKAVONIS and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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Human rights occupy a special position in Europe, and should be implemented in practical situations.

The Parliamentary Assembly believes that political parties occupy a special place in democratic States and that action against them must be viewed with particular care. Therefore it should responsibly assess whether criminal proceedings against political parties and their leaders amounts to entail political persecution.

In this context, criminal prosecution has been initiated in Lithuania against the Labour Party and its leaders, and more and more information confirms that the political opponents were interested in harming the Labour Party. This is reflected in the material of the US Embassy in Lithuania, disclosed by *Wikileaks*, stating that A.Januška (State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and subsequently adviser to the Prime Minister) in a conversation with US diplomats stated that the Lithuanian Government engineered the exclusion from Lithuania of Viktor Uspaskich because of the latter's connections with the Russian special services. The only reason for that is that this leader was born in Russia. The same documents state that "the suspicions with regard to the connections with the Russian special services are not justified, as it is generally traditional in Lithuania to blame the Russians for any kind of failure".

In 2007, the right of V. Uspaskich to meet his electorate was restricted, the funds of the Party were frozen, thus obstructing any political activity. The Labour Party is one of the largest political organisations and its election results show the society's confidence in it. However, despite this fact the prosecutor asked the courts to restrict its ability to unite with other parties.

The Assembly should therefore analyse the situation related to the prosecution of the Labour Party in Lithuania and adopt the necessary decisions on this issue.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

JAKAVONIS Gediminas, Lithuania, ALDE
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia, EDG
BERDZENISHVILI Levan, Georgia, ALDE
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BROEKERS-KNOL Ankie, Netherlands, ALDE
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
DİŞLİ Şaban, Turkey, EPP/CD
EL OUAFI Nezha, Morocco
FARINA Renato, Italy, EPP/CD
FENECHIU Cătălin Daniel, Romania, ALDE
GIRZYŃSKI Zbigniew, Poland, NR
GOGA Pavol, Slovak Republic, SOC
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
HARUTYUNYAN Davit, Armenia, EDG
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
HUOVINEN Susanna, Finland, SOC
JAPARIDZE Tedo, Georgia, NR
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD
KHIDASHELI Tinatin, Georgia, ALDE
KOLMAN Igor, Croatia, ALDE
MARKOVIĆ Milica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
NEUGEBAUER Fritz, Austria, EPP/CD
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
PETRENCO Grigore, Republic of Moldova, UEL
QUINTANILLA Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
RAKIĆ Katarina, Serbia, EPP/CD
SABELLA Bernard, Palestine
SAKOVSKIS Aleksandrs, Latvia, SOC
SEYIDOV Samad, Azerbaijan, EDG
SHEVCHENKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, NR
SUDARENKOV Valeriy, Russian Federation, SOC
TALIADOUROS Spyridon, Greece, EPP/CD
VERMEULEN Sabine, Belgium, NR
YATIM Mohamed, Morocco

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group