Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Deterioration of the situation as regards human rights, rule of law and democracy in Azerbaijan

Written declaration No. 577

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 members express their serious concern over Azerbaijan's persistent failure to honour its obligations and commitments.

Worrying reports of further deterioration of the situation with regards to the freedom of expression and assembly, continuous harassment, arbitrary detention and imprisonment routinely used by Azerbaijan authorities to silence the opposition and independent media, further restrictions on the work of NGOs and the severe crackdown on the civil society, demand the Parliamentary Assembly's immediate action, using all available tools.

The Assembly has already called on the Azerbaijan authorities to honour its commitments and to respect the fundamental values of the Council of Europe. It is deplorable that no real progress has been made. Moreover, before and during the country's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, the situation has even deteriorated.

Therefore, we urge Azerbaijan to respect the freedom of the press and media, as well as the freedom of expression, to align relevant legislation, particularly the laws on defamation, on NGOs and on the freedom of assembly, with the Council of Europe standards and with the Court's case law, in full co-operation with and taking into account the opinions of the Venice Commission and to act upon the recommendations made in the report on Azerbaijan by the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
ABAD Damien, France, EPP/CD
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
ČIGĀNE Lolita, Latvia, EPP/CD
CROZON Pascale, France, SOC
FINCKH-KRÄMER Ute, Germany, SOC
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC
FOURNIER Bernard, France, EPP/CD
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
GARÐARSSON Karl, Iceland, ALDE
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HOVHANNISYAN Arpine, Armenia, EPP/CD
HOVHANNISYAN Vahe, Armenia, ALDE
HÜBINGER Anette, Germany, EPP/CD
KARAPETYAN Naira, Armenia, EPP/CD
LE BORGN' Pierre-Yves, France, SOC
LOKLINDT Lone, Denmark, ALDE
MITCHELL Olivia, Ireland, EPP/CD
NAGHDALYAN Hermine, Armenia, NR
PAKOSTA Liisa-Ly, Estonia, EPP/CD
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden, EPP/CD
ROCHEBLOINE François, France, EPP/CD
ROUQUET René, France, SOC
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC
SASI Kimmo, Finland, EPP/CD
SHAHGELDYAN Mher, Armenia, EPP/CD
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, ALDE
ZOURABIAN Levon, Armenia, ALDE

Total = 28

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