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Standing up for democracy in Venezuela

Written declaration No. 611

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.

Considering the situation in Venezuela, as growing lawlessness, looting and hunger threaten to plunge the country into a state of anarchy.

Considering that the Maduro government has failed to govern democratically and that Mr. Maduro has packed crucial State institutions, including the Supreme Court, with loyalists and has stymied the opposition-run Parliament at every turn.

Considering that his government has kept political opponents arbitrarily jailed for years and that the situation in Venezuela is multipronged and will not be solved without comprehensive reforms, which the Maduro regime has been unwilling to even contemplate.

The undersigned members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe are of the opinion that Venezuela's government should respect the constitution and release the 2,000 political prisoners immediately, including political leaders such as Leopoldo López, Antonio Ledezma and Daniel Ceballos.

We express grave concern at the serious deterioration in democracy, human rights, the economy and society bearing in mind that the rule of law and the separation of powers are not duly respected in the country.

A solution to the crisis can only be found through dialogue with all levels of government, democratic opposition and society.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

FISCHER Axel E., Germany, EPP/CD
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BAKOYANNIS Theodora, Greece, EPP/CD
BILLSTRÖM Tobias, Sweden, EPP/CD
BONET Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
CENTEMERO Elena, Italy, EPP/CD
DESTEXHE Alain, Belgium, ALDE
DIŞLİ Şaban, Turkey, EPP/CD
FENECHIU Cătălin Daniel, Romania, ALDE
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GODSKESEN Ingebjørg, Norway, EC
GOLUB Vladyslav, Ukraine, EPP/CD
GRØVAN Hans Fredrik, Norway, EPP/CD
GÜNAY Emine Nur, Turkey, EC
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KESİCİ İlhan, Turkey, SOC
KÜÇÜKCAN Talip, Turkey, EC
LUIS Teófilo, de, Spain, EPP/CD
MATEU Meritxell, Andorra, ALDE
MERGEN Martine, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
MUNYAMA Killion, Poland, EPP/CD
NICOLETTI Michele, Italy, SOC
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
OBREMSKI Jarosław, Poland, EC
ÖNAL Suat, Turkey, EC
PÂSLARU Florin Costin, Romania, SOC
RIGONI Andrea, Italy, ALDE
SAVCHENKO Nadiia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
SOBOLEV Serhiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
TAKTAKISHVILI Chiora, Georgia, ALDE
UNGURYAN Pavlo, Ukraine, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VLASENKO Sergiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
YEMETS Leonid, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 38

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group