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25 January 2017

## **Moldova: political oppression against civil society and key witnesses**

**Written declaration No. 623**

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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.

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One of the priorities of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement is Moldovan authorities' transparency in the implementation of anticorruption reform and protection of human rights, freedoms and the rule of law to restore the confidence of Moldova's citizens and international partners.

Unfortunately, since 2014, the government has made attempts to silence the opposition and civil society, whose representatives, such as Ana Ursachi, Eduard Rudenco, Grigore Petrenco have become victims of defamatory campaigns and criminal cases, led by Moldovan prosecutor's offices and media outlets, influenced and politicised by oligarch Vlad Plahotniuc. Representatives of StarNet Telecom and its owner Alexandru Machedon, who refused to censor independent media JurnalTV, faced similar reprisals.

Politically motivated trials were initiated against Vyacheslav Platon-Kobalyev, a key witness in the case against Plahotniuc on charges of embezzlement of \$1 billion from reserves of the Moldova's National Bank; or Sergiu Cibotari, an ex-employee of the Post of Moldova and a key witness in a criminal case against Plahotniuc's allies.

We hereby call on the Moldovan authorities to immediately stop the reprisals, and remind that human rights and democracy situation in Moldova is closely monitored by the Council of Europe.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
AEG Raivo, Estonia, EPP/CD  
ALBAKKAR Khaled, Jordan  
CHRISTODOULOPOULOU Anastasia, Greece, UEL  
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL  
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL  
KERESTECİOĞLU DEMİR Filiz, Turkey, UEL  
KLEINBERGA Nellija, Latvia, ALDE  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL  
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL  
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE  
NICOLETTI Michele, Italy, SOC  
OBREMSKI Jarosław, Poland, EC  
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD  
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL  
RAWERT Mechthild, Germany, SOC  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL  
WILSON Phil, United Kingdom, SOC  
WOJTYŁA Andrzej, Poland, EC  
ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE  
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

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Total = 23

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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  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left