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29 June 2017

Turkish violations against the Istanbul Pride 2017

Written declaration No. 636

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 Turkish authorities ban of and violations against the Istanbul Pride 2017 are a clear violation of Turkey's obligations to the Council of Europe. The ban had no justification and served as a violation of the freedom of assembly. We condemn the attack against the peaceful manifestations that included at least 24 arrests, blocking of streets and the use of rubber bullets.

For years the Pride in Istanbul has been a peaceful and colourful expression in favour of equal rights, but in recent years the Turkish authorities have banned the event. We call on the Turkish authorities to live up to their obligation to secure freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and to secure the rights of LGBT people in Turkey.

We stand in solidarity with the brave people of Istanbul and sympathizers from all over Europe that had the courage to go to the streets in favour of equality and fundamental human rights.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
ÅBERG Boriána, Sweden, EPP/CD
BONET Sílvia Eloísa, Andorra, SOC
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR
BUSTINDUY Pablo, Spain, UEL
CENTEMERO Elena, Italy, EPP/CD
CROZON Pascale, France, SOC
FILIPE António, Portugal, UEL
GUNNARSDÓTTIR Bjarkey, Iceland, UEL
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HANŽEK Matjaž, Slovenia, UEL
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
KARLSSON Niklas, Sweden, SOC
KASIMATI Nina, Greece, UEL
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL
KERESTECİOĞLU DEMİR Filiz, Turkey, UEL
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MASSEY Doreen, United Kingdom, SOC
MIKKO Marianne, Estonia, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL
PSYCHOGIOS Georgios, Greece, UEL
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC

Total = 33

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
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