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28 June 2019

Statement by members of delegations on the decision of the Parliamentary Assembly to approve the credentials of the Russian delegation

Written declaration No. 689

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.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

The unconditional restoration of the Russian delegation's rights, without the Russian Federation honouring any of the Parliamentary Assembly's numerous demands, runs counter to the core values of the Council of Europe and its Statute. This step sends a very wrong signal to the country that has resorted to armed aggression, poisoning of individuals, does not observe human rights of its citizens and does not promote, but rather seeks to destabilise democracies throughout Europe.

Today, we as the delegates of our nations have no answer to our people on how exactly the Council of Europe is protecting their rights if it turns out to be interested in protecting the well-being of an aggressor rather than the victims of aggression and repression.

The future of the Council of Europe is under threat as a whole because the Council of Europe is losing the trust of the people it stands to protect.

We return home to consult our Parliaments and Governments about the joint actions in the Assembly in the next sessions.

We wish good luck to the newly elected Secretary General and hope she finds a way to solve this unprecedented crisis of trust which has been created this week.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

OZOLA Linda, Latvia, EPP/CD
BERNACKI Włodzimierz, Poland, EC
BUTKEVIČIUS Algirdas, Lithuania, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EC
GOGUADZE Nino, Georgia, EC
GOLUBEVA Marija, Latvia, ALDE
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KATSARAVA Sofio, Georgia, SOC
KIRAL Serhii, Ukraine, EC
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
LĪBIŅA-EGNERE Inese, Latvia, EPP/CD
MASIULIS Kęstutis, Lithuania, EPP/CD
POLIAČIK Martin, Slovak Republic, ALDE
PRUIDZE Irina, Georgia, EC
REIZNIECE-OZOLA Dana, Latvia, EPP/CD
SAAR Indrek, Estonia, SOC
TAMM Raivo, Estonia, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 21

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