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## Investigating and preventing corruption at the Council of Europe

**Written declaration No. 677**

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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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We, the undersigned, declare the following:

In 2017, the Council of Europe was shaken by a huge corruption scandal. Italian prosecutors had discovered that a former Parliamentary Assembly member had received almost 2.4 million euros from an Azerbaijani Assembly member.

The Assembly commissioned an external investigation which concluded that “there was a strong suspicion that certain current and former members of PACE had engaged in activity of a corruptive nature.” The Assembly banned 15 former members for life from access to the Assembly premises. It also strengthened its ethical framework.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Committee of Ministers did not investigate into the behaviour of Azerbaijan, accused of having directed the corruptive actions.

Before the election of the new Secretary General, both candidates should commit to:

- initiating independent external investigations into possible corruption conducted by any state and state-linked actors in all Council of Europe institutions over the last ten years;
- submitting to the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly a proposal on a well-financed mechanism that will allow for quick and automatic investigations in cases of serious allegations of corruption in all parts of the Organisation in the future;
- implementing a secure whistleblowing procedure at the Council of Europe that will support and protect individuals who expose illegal or unethical practices.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



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

OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD  
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD  
AVETISYAN Sos, Armenia, SOC  
AZZOPARDI Jason, Malta, EPP/CD  
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC  
BOUYX Bertrand, France, NR  
BROUWERS Karin, Belgium, EPP/CD  
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE  
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE  
CHRISTIANSOON Alexander, Sweden, EC  
CORLĂȚEAN Titus, Romania, SOC  
DAEMS Rik, Belgium, ALDE  
DOUBLE Steve, United Kingdom, EC  
EBERLE-STRUB Susanne, Liechtenstein, ALDE  
ENGBLOM Annicka, Sweden, EPP/CD  
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE  
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC  
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EC  
GENTVILAS Simonas, Lithuania, ALDE  
GOGUADZE Nino, Georgia, EC  
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC  
GRAAS Gusty, Luxembourg, ALDE  
HAYRAPETYAN Tatevik, Armenia, EPP/CD  
HEER Alfred, Switzerland, ALDE  
HEINRICH Frank, Germany, EPP/CD  
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC  
HETTO-GAASCH Françoise, Luxembourg, EPP/CD  
IELENSKYI Viktor, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
IGITYAN Hovhannes, Armenia, ALDE  
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD  
KARAMANLI Marietta, France, SOC  
KERN Claude, France, ALDE  
KIRAL Serhii, Ukraine, EC  
KITEV Betian, North Macedonia, SOC  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC  
LE NAY Jacques, France, ALDE  
LIDDELL-GRAINGER Ian, United Kingdom, EC  
LORSCHÉ Josée, Luxembourg, SOC  
MARUKYAN Edmon, Armenia, ALDE  
MELKUMYAN Mikayel, Armenia, EC  
NĚMCOVÁ Miroslava, Czech Republic, EC  
NICK Andreas, Germany, EPP/CD  
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD  
POLIAČIK Martin, Slovak Republic, ALDE  
PRUIDZE Irina, Georgia, EC  
REISS Frédéric, France, EPP/CD  
RIEF Josef, Germany, EPP/CD  
RODRÍGUEZ HERNÁNDEZ Melisa, Spain, ALDE  
RÖSSNER Tabea, Germany, SOC  
RUBINYAN Ruben, Armenia, EPP/CD  
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC

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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: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SOBOLIEV Serhii, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE  
SPAUTZ Marc, Luxembourg, EPP/CD  
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC  
TAMAŠUNIENĖ Rita, Lithuania, EC  
VALLINI André, France, SOC  
VARDANYAN Vladimir, Armenia, EPP/CD  
VIROLAINEN Anne-Mari, Finland, EPP/CD  
VOGT Günter, Liechtenstein, ALDE  
WASERMAN Sylvain, France, ALDE  
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC  
WISELER Claude, Luxembourg, EPP/CD  
YEMETS Leonid, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, EC

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Total = 67