



Doc. 15482

17 March 2022

Providing a comprehensive response to the SLAPPs issue

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Alexandra LOUIS and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Over the last few years, journalists and whistle-blowers have been confronted to gag orders. As evidenced by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe in 2021, the scale of the problem constitutes a severe threat on freedom of speech. By altering the public debate, gag orders, more commonly named «SLAPPs» (strategic lawsuits against public participation), have a detrimental effect on the course of our institutions and our democracy.

The 2020 annual report of the Council of Europe Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists already highlighted the potential danger of these unfounded court procedures by influential natural or legal persons aiming to intimidate journalists in order for them to give up on their work. The States have ignored this call to vigilance.

Therefore, in order to fight SLAPPs effectively, it would be necessary to prevent the exercise of these abusive recourses, introduce measures to sanction abuses, and reduce to a minimum the consequences of SLAPPs, by providing concrete assistance to people subject to these procedures.

The Parliamentary Assembly should examine the issue of SLAPPs and provide a comprehensive response to this issue.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

LOUIS Alexandra, France, ALDE
BECHT Olivier, France, ALDE
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
COTTIER Damien, Switzerland, ALDE
DURANTON Nicole, France, ALDE
GRIN Jean-Pierre, Switzerland, ALDE
HOUBRON Dimitri, France, ALDE
JENSEN Gyde, Germany, ALDE
KERN Claude, France, ALDE
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia, Ukraine, ALDE
KRISPER Stephanie, Austria, ALDE
LE NAY Jacques, France, ALDE
LEYTE Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
MAIRE Jacques, France, ALDE
MOSHENETS Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
SPĂTARU Elena-Simona, Romania, ALDE
TANGUY Liliana, France, ALDE
TORNARITIS Nicos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
TRASTOUR-ISNART Laurence, France, EPP/CD
TRISSE Nicole, France, ALDE

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