

Doc. 15475 Second Edition
20 May 2022

Empowering national sports association to stand up for human rights and against violation of international law

Written declaration No. 738

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:

We welcome the resolute response from Council of Europe member States and the solid regime of sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation by the European Union and the international community.

We also welcome the recommendation of the International Olympic Committee to not invite or allow Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials to participate in international competitions, and encourage all international sports federations to implement the IOC decision.

While recognising the principle of not punishing athletes for their government's decisions, it is unacceptable to allow Russian and Belarussian athletes' international participation, while Ukrainian athletes cannot participate because of the attack on their country.

It is more important than ever that the world of sports stand up for human rights and international law. We hence regret to see how current regulations make it difficult for national sports associations to stand up, and act independently from international sports associations.

The Council of Europe and the governments of its member States should, in light of the non-existing public authorities' sanctions means, now consider establishing mechanisms through which governments can act appropriately within the scope of their laws.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

HELLELAND Linda Hofstad, Norway, EPP/CD
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
BECHT Olivier, France, ALDE
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
DE TEMMERMAN Jennifer, France, ALDE
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Total = 32

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