Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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19 August 2025

Authoritarian backsliding in Georgia

Written declaration No. 819

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:

On 29 January 2025, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted Resolution 2585 (2025) ratifying the credentials of the Georgian delegation on the condition that Georgia meets democratic benchmarks by April 2025, including the release of political prisoners and the announcement of new parliamentary elections under improved electoral conditions.

Instead, the situation has worsened dramatically. Senior opposition leaders have been imprisoned. Civil society activists and journalists face politically motivated criminal prosecution.

This is no longer a series of isolated incidents but a sustained campaign to eliminate democratic opposition, restrict freedom of expression and silence civil society.

Furthermore, the Georgian delegation has unilaterally withdrawn from the Assembly.

This path of repression and disengagement violates Georgia's obligations as a Council of Europe member and defies the Assembly's authority.

The Assembly must uphold its rules and resolutions. Ignoring authoritarian backsliding within a member State undermines the very foundation of this institution.

If Georgia makes no progress in reversing its authoritarian course, we will challenge the credentials of the Georgian delegation on substantive grounds and call for the Assembly and the Committee of Ministers to begin the expulsion process of Georgia for serious violations of the basic principles of the Council of Europe mentioned in Article 3 of its Statute.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
ABRAHAM Knut, Germany, EPP/CD
AKALIN Mehmet, Türkiye, ALDE
BAKER Richard, United Kingdom, SOC
BILOZIR Larysa, Ukraine, ALDE
BONNEAU François, France, ALDE
BOROWSKI Marek, Poland, EPP/CD
BOUYX Bertrand, France, ALDE
BRICO Christophe, Monaco, EPP/CD
BRINTON Sal, United Kingdom, ALDE
ECCLES Cat, United Kingdom, SOC
EDER-GITSCHTHALER Andrea, Austria, EPP/CD
FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice, Monaco, ALDE
GALLES Paul, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
GERMAN Michael, United Kingdom, ALDE
GETHINS Stephen, United Kingdom, ALDE
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, ECPA
GÖTHBERG Gustaf, Sweden, EPP/CD
GRYFFROY Andries, Belgium, ALDE
KALCHENKO Serhii, Ukraine, ECPA
KERN Claude, France, ALDE
KHOMENKO Olena, Ukraine, ECPA
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia, Ukraine, ALDE
KRISPER Stephanie, Austria, ALDE
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
LAHE Hanah, Estonia, ALDE
LEYTE Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
LYDEKA Arminas, Lithuania, ALDE
MacCLEARY James, United Kingdom, ALDE
MEZENTSEVA-FEDORENKO Mariia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
MOON Perran, United Kingdom, SOC
MOREL Louise, France, ALDE
MURARIU Oana, Romania, ALDE
PAVIĆ Marko, Croatia, EPP/CD
PERTEGHELLA Manuela, United Kingdom, ALDE
PETRU Ryszard, Poland, ALDE
PLAVÁKOVÁ Lucia, Slovak Republic, ALDE
PREMIK Dean, Slovenia, ALDE
PULJAK Marijana, Croatia, ALDE
RYLE Alexander, Denmark, ALDE
SACHEVA Denitsa, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
SCHOU Ingjerd Schie, Norway, EPP/CD
SOBOLIEV Serhii, Ukraine, EPP/CD
SPĂTARU Elena-Simona, Romania, ALDE
STAMATIS Georgios, Greece, EPP/CD
TALI Kadri, Estonia, ALDE
VOGELS Rian, Netherlands, ALDE
VOKSHI Albana, Albania, EPP/CD
VOLKMANN Johannes, Germany, EPP/CD
WIJK Elly, van, Netherlands, EPP/CD
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 51

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