Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Moldovan authorities' actions against mass media and freedom of expression in the Republic of Moldova must be stopped immediately

Written declaration No. 520

This written declaration commits only those who have signed it

We wish to express our deep concern about the decision to withdraw the broadcasting licence of the private TV channel NIT by the Broadcasting Co-ordination Council of the Republic of Moldova, on 5 April 2012. Such severe punishment of the television channel, which is well known in Moldova and abroad as an opposition TV channel, can be seen as a form of political retaliation by the Moldovan authorities against a dissenting media outlet.

The action taken, moreover, raises major questions about the Moldovan Broadcasting Co-ordination Council's independence and impartiality, and about the functioning of democratic institutions in general.

Media freedom is one of the basic principles of democracy. Respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights are key commitments undertaken by the Moldovan authorities in their dealings with the Council of Europe. We urge the Moldovan authorities to honour their international and domestic commitments to democracy, human rights and media freedom.

We demand that the Moldovan authorities put an immediate end to any arbitrary measures concerning NIT and restore its broadcasting licence.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed [1]:

PETRENCO Grigore, Republic of Moldova, UEL
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL
BACKMAN Þuriður, Iceland, UEL
BORZOVA Olga, Russian Federation, EDG
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KNYSHOV Alexey, Russian Federation, EDG
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
LECOQ Jean-Paul, France, UEL
LOUKAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MAKHMUTOV Anvar, Russian Federation, EDG
O'SULLIVAN Maureen, Ireland, UEL
POCHINOK Alexander, Russian Federation, EDG
PUSHKOV Alexey, Russian Federation, EDG
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
VRIES Klaas, de, Netherlands, SOC

Total = 20

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1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
   SOC: Socialist Group
   ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
   EDG: European Democrat Group
   UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
   NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group