Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Tackling intolerance and discrimination in Europe with a special focus on Christianity

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Valeriu GHILETCHI and other members of the Assembly

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

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In seeking to ensure respect and equality, it is also necessary to shed light on the growing bias against practising Christians – even though this may seem surprising in countries with a nominal Christian majority. For instance, 74% of United Kingdom Christians feel that there is more negative discrimination against Christians than people of other faiths, and feel more sidelined than ever in areas such as the workplace by the government and through negative stereotyping in the media. There is also vandalism of Christian sites: in November 2010 the French Interior Minister wrote a letter to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights stating that of 485 acts of vandalism against faith-related sites in the previous ten months, 410 had been directed against Christian sites.

In July 2011, the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly called for "a public debate on intolerance and discrimination against Christians" and asked to ensure "the right of Christians to participate fully in public life". It also recommended that "legislation in the participating states, including labour law, equality law, laws on freedom of expression and assembly, and laws related to religious communities and right of conscientious objection be assessed" with a view to removing any intolerance of practising Christian lifestyles. The OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly further encouraged "the media not to spread prejudices against Christians and to combat negative stereotyping".

The Parliamentary Assembly should therefore also address the issue of intolerance and discrimination against Christians, with a view to identifying good practices in Council of Europe member States on how to tackle this phenomenon and ensure respect and equality for all, including practising Christians.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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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