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Exploitation of homophobia for political ends by Moldova's Communist Party

Written declaration No. 512

This written declaration commits only those who have signed it

On 23 February 2012, the Communist Party-led city council of Balti, Moldova's second-largest city, decided to "prohibit aggressive propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientations in demonstrations, propaganda which the central authorities of the Republic of Moldova are seeking to impose on the municipality". The move came in response to government proposals to introduce anti-discrimination legislation that would protect sexual orientation.

Shortly afterwards, Vladimir Voronin, former President of Moldova and leader of the Communist Party, made a speech calling homosexuality "an abomination" and urging the country to "rebel" against LGBT people. "Let each municipality declare itself free from this nonsense which has been imported from Europe," he said.

Since then, three town and three district councils, all Communist Party-led, have adopted similar provisions.

We condemn these manifestly discriminatory decisions, Mr Voronin's use of "hate speech", and the Communist Party's use of homophobia as a political weapon.

We call on:

– Mr Voronin to end his attacks on LGBT people;

– the Moldovan Communist Party to withdraw the aforementioned decisions;

– the Moldovan Government to challenge their legality, if they are not withdrawn;

– all Moldovan political parties to support the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation, including sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed [1]:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
ALASTAL Najat, Palestinian National Council
ÁRNASON Mörður, Iceland, SOC
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC
BOSWELL Tim, United Kingdom, EDG
BREMER Tor, Norway, SOC
CRAMON-TAUBADEL Viola, von, Germany, SOC
GAJDŮŠKOVÁ Alena, Czech Republic, SOC
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
KYRIAKIDOU Athina, Cyprus, SOC
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
LYDEKA Arminas, Lithuania, ALDE
MANZONE-SAQUET Nicole, Monaco, EPP/CD
MIRAKOVSKA Sonja, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
REISSMANN Mette, Denmark, SOC
STRÄSSER Christoph, Germany, SOC
TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
VORUZ Eric, Switzerland, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC
ZHIDKIKH Vladimir, Russian Federation, EDG

Total = 26

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