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Need for a Council of Europe Neighbourhood policy

Motion for a resolution
presented by Mr Ateş and others

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

The European Union launched in 2004 its European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), aimed at strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of countries sharing land or sea borders with the Union.

Apart from the traditional economic, financial and social dimensions, the ENP contains such elements as promoting democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights – areas where the Council of Europe competence and expertise are widely recognised as a reference.

A number of countries which are part of the EU's ENP, such as the countries of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, are also neighbours to the Council of Europe.

Because of its larger geographical stretch, the Council of Europe has a wider neighbourhood which includes areas of the Middle East and Central Asia.

Our Organisation also needs a coherent policy for relations with neighbouring countries. The aim of such policy would be to share with our neighbours the Council of Europe's experience in building democracy and in protecting human rights, thus creating more stability and security in the areas around Greater Europe.

As regards the countries which are neighbours of both the Council of Europe and the EU, it would be appropriate to coordinate activities under this new Council of Europe neighbourhood policy with those under the ENP, so as to avoid unnecessary duplications and promote the same set of standards.

The Assembly decides to consider the feasibility of such a policy and the elements which could be part of it.

Signed (see overleaf)

*Signed*¹:

ATEŞ Abdülkadir, Turkey, SOC
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia, EPP/CD
BRANDE Luc Van den, Belgium, EPP/CD
ČURDOVÁ Anna, Czech Republic, SOC
DURRIEU Josette, France, SOC
EVANS Nigel, United Kingdom, EDG
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HAJIYEVA Gultakin, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD
LINDBLAD Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD
LOUTFI Younal, Bulgaria, ALDE
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MERCAN Murat, Turkey, EPP/CD
MOTA AMARAL João Bosco, Portugal, EPP/CD
NĚMCOVÁ Miroslava, Czech Republic, EDG
OJULAND Kristiina, Estonia, ALDE
RUSSELL-JOHNSTON, United Kingdom, ALDE
SEVERINSEN Hanne, Denmark, ALDE
SZABÓ Zoltán, Hungary, SOC
ZAŠOV Blagoj, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", SOC

¹ SOC: Socialist Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democratic Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: not registered in a group