Parliamentary **Assembly**
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 10995
28 June 2006

The threatened closing of Council of Europe Library (the Vedovato Library) (Art. 53 of the Rules)

Written Declaration No 381

This written declaration commits only the members who have signed it

1. The Council of Europe Library (a relevant part of which is the Vedovato Library) is running the danger of closure. Donated to the Council of Europe in 1987 and duly accepted by the Committee of Ministers, it represents an invaluable cultural asset. The subsequent Convention signed in 2004 confirmed the donation and vested the Council with several obligations.

2. With his letter of 2 May 2006, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe informed Professor Vedovato of the decision to close the Library or move it elsewhere on account of alleged financial restrictions.

3. The above decision – if implemented – would deprive the Council of Europe of a cultural institution of inestimable value and would be a fact to be very much deprecated, as it would be taken without prior consultation with the organs of the Council of Europe.

4. The Vedovato Library embodies the soul of a Europe which does not want to neglect its common roots and does not wish to be a mere commercial organisation. Suppressing this centre, which is key to promoting the European identity, is tantamount to drying up the very sources of our future.

5. For the above reasons, we the undersigned express firm disapproval with respect to the decision to close or move the Vedovato Library, a decision aimed at pursuing insignificant budget economies which would result in a dramatic impoverishment of the objectives of the Council of Europe.

Signed (see overleaf)

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Signed: [1]

AZZOLINI, Claudio, Italy, EPP/CD
BRANGER, Jean-Guy, France, EPP/CD
COLOMBIER, Georges, France, EPP/CD
de PUIG, Lluís Maria, Spain, SOC
DURRIEU, Josette, France, SOC
ELO, Mikko, Finland, SOC
FRUNDA, György, Romania, EPP/CD
GABURRO, Giuseppe, Italy, EPP/CD
GARDETTO, Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GIOVANELLI, Fausto, Italy, SOC
GLESENER, Marcel, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
GUBERT, Renzo, Italy, EPP/CD
HANCOCK, Michael, United Kingdom, ALDE
HÖGMARK, Anders G., Sweden, EPP/CD
HÖRSTER, Joachim, Germany, EPP/CD
IWIŃSKI, Tadeusz, Poland, SOC
KOSACHEV, Konstantin, Russian Federation, EDG
LINDBLAD, Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD/PPE/DC
Lord, RUSSELL-JOHNSTON, Russel, United Kingdom, ALDE
MERCAN, Murat, Turkey, EPP/CD
MIGNON, Jean-Claude, France, EPP/CD
MORGANTI, Fausta, St. Marino, SOC
PAOLETTI TANGHERONI, Patrizia, Italy, EPP/CD
PAPADIMITRIOU, Elsa, Greece, EPP/CD
POURGOURIDES, Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
PROVERA, Fiorello, Italy, ALDE
PUCHE, Gabino, Spain, EPP/CD
RIGONI, Andrea, Italy, EPP/CD
SCHERINI, Gianpietro, Italy, EPP/CD
SCHREINER, Bernard, France, EPP/CD
SEVERIN, Adrian, Romania, SOC
Van den BRANDE, Luc, Belgium, EPP/CD
VERMOT-MANGOLD, Ruth-Gaby, Switzerland, SOC
ZAPFL-HELBLING, Rosmarie, Switzerland, EPP/CD

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Total = 34

[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