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The need for international condemnation of Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933

Motion for a resolution

presented by Mrs Wohlwend and others

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

The right to life is the first and essential human right defined by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental freedoms (1950).

The rule of the totalitarian Stalinist regime in the former USSR has led to tremendous human rights violations depriving millions of people of their right to live. *Holodomor* (artificial famine) in Ukraine in 1932-33 is the most tragic evidence of the murderous deeds of the totalitarian Stalinist regime.

Holodomor was the primary result of deliberately planned actions aimed at physical annihilation of the opponents of the repressive regime on a national level. The terror by artificial famine became a principal instrument of this policy. According to sad statistics, during just one year in the period 1932-33, Ukraine lost a quarter of its population (according to different sources, from 7 to 10 million people): 17 people were dying every minute, more than 1 000 every hour and nearly 25 000 every day. The total number of victims was equal to or even exceeded the population of some present-day European countries.

The tragedy of *Holodomor* has been intentionally concealed during the Soviet era. It was even forbidden to discuss it openly. Nevertheless, this tragedy has no statute of limitations. After decades of silence, today is the opportune moment to restore historical truth, to honour the memory of *Holodomor* victims and to express sympathy to their relatives.

The Council of Europe shall not keep silent about this tragedy, being the unique all-European institution in the field of human rights protection. It shall join the voices of other international organisations who have already expressed their attitude to *Holodomor*:

- on 7 November 2003, 35 United Nations member states made the joint statement on the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-33 in Ukraine (*Holodomor*);
- on 1 November 2007, UNESCO adopted its resolution on remembrance of victims of the Great Famine (*Holodomor*) in Ukraine in 1932-33;
- on 30 November 2007, 33 OSCE participating states made the joint statement on the 75th anniversary of *Holodomor* 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine;
- *Holodomor* in Ukraine was condemned by national parliaments of the Council of Europe member states such as Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland, as well as by the Parliaments of Canada and the United States, observers to the Organisation.

While preparing a report and adopting a relevant resolution which will go in line with the previously adopted [Resolutions 1096](#) (1996) and [1481](#) (2006), the Parliamentary Assembly could show solidarity with its international partners and member states in condemning the deeds of the repressive Stalinist regime, raise public awareness of this tragedy and commemorate the memory of millions of Ukrainians who became victims of the *Holodomor* of 1932-33.

Signed ¹:

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- BENDER Ryszard, Poland, EDG
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- BILOZIR Oksana, Ukraine, EPP/CD
- BLUM Roland, France, EPP/CD
- BOKERIA Giorgi, Georgia, ALDE
- BONDARENKO Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
- Van den BRANDE Luc, Belgium, EPP/CD
- BRANGER Jean-Guy, France, EPP/CD
- CIRCENE Ingrida, Latvia, EPP/CD
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- COSARCIUC Valeriu, Moldova, ALDE
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- WODARG Wolfgang, Germany, SOC
- WURM Gisela, Austria, 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