



GROUP OF THE UNIFIED EUROPEAN LEFT (UEL)
PARLEMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

To the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Mr. Pedro AGRAMUNT

Strasbourg, April 26th 2017

Mr. President, dear Pedro,

In the appendix of this letter you can find the statement unanimously adopted today by the Group of the Unified European Left in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

May I use this opportunity to sincerely thank you for our co-operation during the past 16 months of your Presidency and wish you well.

Kind regards,
Tiny Kox
Chair UEL PACE

CC:
Mr. Wojciech Sawicki, Secretary General
Mr. Axel Fischer, President EPP
Mr. Michele Nicoletti, President SOC
Mr. Jordi Xucla, President ALDE
Mr. Ian Liddell-Grainger, President EC

Appendix

Statement adopted by the UEL Group at its Group meeting on 26th of April, 2017

After having evaluated yesterday's hearing with the President of the Assembly and taking into account all available information on the recent visit of the President to Syria, the Group of the Unified European Left in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, has unanimously come to the conclusion that it needs to ask the President to resign without any further delay in order to avoid more damage to be done to the image and the credibility of the Presidency in particular and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in general.

The UEL Group welcomes the President's apologies for his irresponsible behaviour with regard to his visit to Syria, but concludes that no President of the Assembly can properly function without having the confidence of the Assembly that has elected him.

The UEL Group urges all Assembly members to assist in restoring the credibility of the Presidency and the Assembly, in order to be able to effectively continue our most important activities to protect and promote the rule of law, human rights and democracy in our 47 European member states.