



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO NARYS
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Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada

Dmytro Razumkov

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REGARDING ATR TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN UKRAINE

The ATR television was set up as the first television channel for Crimean Tatars, an ethnic group with around 300 thousand members, deported from their homeland by the Soviet authorities in 1944. This television was one of the few voices in the region that criticised the annexation carried out by Russia. Like other local media channels, the ATR had to apply to the Russian authorities after the annexation of Crimea to obtain a licence to continue broadcasting the television channel in Crimea. Unfortunately, Russia refused to renew the television licence. At the time, Lenur Isliamov, founder of the ATR, argued that the ban on broadcasts in his homeland amounted to deportation.

Until now, the broadcasting of the ART television channel has continued in Ukraine. However, the Ukrainian authorities are also seeking to withdraw the licence for this television now. Having regard to the adoption of a European Parliament resolution of 12 May 2016 on the Crimean Tatars (2016/2692(RSP)), where the European Parliament ‘condemns restrictions on free media in Crimea, in particular the withdrawal of the licence of the largest Crimean Tatar television channel, ATR; calls for the reopening of that channel and of the children’s television channel Lale and the radio station Meydan; considers that these acts deprive the Crimean Tatar people of a vital instrument for maintaining their cultural and linguistic identity; notes the establishment of the new station TV Millet, and calls for its full editorial independence to be ensured;’ and in view of the fact that in June 2019 the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a Resolution on *Recognition of Destruction of the Crimean Tatars by the Soviet Union as Genocide*, where the Seimas calls upon the international community to show its solidarity with the Crimean Tatars and to continue the policy of non-recognition of the occupation and annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, we hereby

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2016-0218_LT.html?fbclid=IwAR3JAx3rlhnPaxyISKQOlhdvo5Rc2mE5NfGKpMC7UKLiKWpPTKm8ctz1O0

request you to refrain from stopping the ATR television broadcasting in Ukraine as it is important for the Ukrainian Tartar community in terms of both information provision and cherishing of values and history.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'L. Kaščiūnas', written in a cursive style.

Laurynas Kaščiūnas

Member of the Seimas

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2016-0218_LT.html?fbclid=IwAR3JAx3rlhnPaxyISKQOlhdvo5Rc2mE5NfGKpMC7UKLiIKWPpTKm8ctz1O0