**To the Head of Violence against Women Division and Executive Secretary of the Monitoring Mechanisms of the Council of Europe**

**Liri KOPAÇI-DI MICHELE**

**Dear Ms. Kopaçi-Di Michele!**

According to the information voiced by a number of Russian and foreign media, you and the PACE apparatus are under pressure from aggressive representatives of sex minorities and feminists, who demand that you, in turn, put pressure on the leadership of the State Duma of Russia in order to include the deputy Oksana Pushkina into the Russian delegation to the PACE.

We would like to inform you that Pushkina is an ordinary Duma member and does not represent the interests of the majority of Russian society and authorities. In his recent address to the Federal Assembly, Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed that the key task of our country was to preserve the people and to support the family. Deputy Pushkina, on the contrary, is famous for her attempts to lobby for laws aimed at undermining demography. Among them there is the so-called draft law "On the Prevention of Domestic Violence", which contains absolutely vague formulations of violence, within which anything can be summed up. Pushkina's lobbyists operate with deliberately false, hundreds of times overstated data on alleged violence in Russia: in particular, they claim that 14,000 women in Russia die at the hands of their husbands every year (according to the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, the real number is about 300). At the same time, Russian legislation has all the necessary legal tools to combat real violence, which in reality is constantly shrinking – in contrast to countries where earlier laws similar to Pushkina's law draft were adopted.

Russian society is categorically against the adoption of this law. In particular, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, the Patriarchal Commission for Family, Motherhood and Childhood and the leaders of all leading Muslim and Jewish communities in Russia as well as parent organizations have repeatedly expressed their opposition to this initiative. A survey conducted on the website of the Federation Council showed that 95% of the population were categorically against this initiative; dozens of rallies and pickets have been held in the country due to the threat of adoption of this law.

You should be well aware that in a number of European countries, the laws adopted pursuant to the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (Russia has not ratified this document) have caused a crisis in the family institution, a sharp decline in the birth rate and substitution of indigenous population by migrants from foreign cultures. We, Russians, do not want such a perspective to ourselves. We also recommended you to look the truth straight in the eyes and to see what indulgence to sodomites, feminists and other minorities has made with Europe that once used to be Christian (we are ready to give required independent analytics if necessary).

Deputy Pushkina is perceived by a significant part of Russian society as a foreign agent who lobbies for the implementation of laws in Russia that run counter to Russian traditional moral values while insulting her own country and her own people by openly stating the need for a "mentality shift". Such a person has no right to represent Russia in a structure like PACE.

**Respectfully,**