

SUSPEND RUSSIAN COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBERSHIP NOW

Strasbourg 24.02.2022: Democracy and human rights trainers from Europe and North Africa today called for the immediate suspension of Russia from the 47 member Council of Europe.

“Invading Ukraine, a member state of the Council of Europe, is a flagrant breach of the Council’s Statute and makes a mockery of the values on which the organisation was founded” said the Secretary General of the Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe (ASPS), Jack Hanning.

“The Council’s Committee of Ministers should have the courage of its convictions and suspend Russian membership under Article 8 of the Statute until such time as it withdraws from Ukraine and implements rulings of the European Court of Human Rights in cases such as that of Alexei Navalny”, Hanning added.

The ASPS which the Russian Federation has labeled “an undesirable organisation” groups 21 Schools of Political Studies which promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

CONTACT: Arina Knyazeva Tel: +33607404797 Mail:arinaknyazeva1@gmail.com

- ☀ The Association of Schools of Political Studies (ASPS) was set up in July 2008 by the Directors of the Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe to play an enhanced role in the management of their programme, to strengthen links between the Schools and foster their activities.
- ☀ The first School was set up in Moscow in 1992. Since then other Schools have been established in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo*, Moldova, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.
- ☀ Nils Muižnieks has been President of the ASPS since 2018. He was the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights from 2012 to 2018.

