

**THE ARMENIAN CONNECTION**

**Chapter 2: « Mr X », Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe  
Commissioner for Human Rights**

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## **1. Introduction**



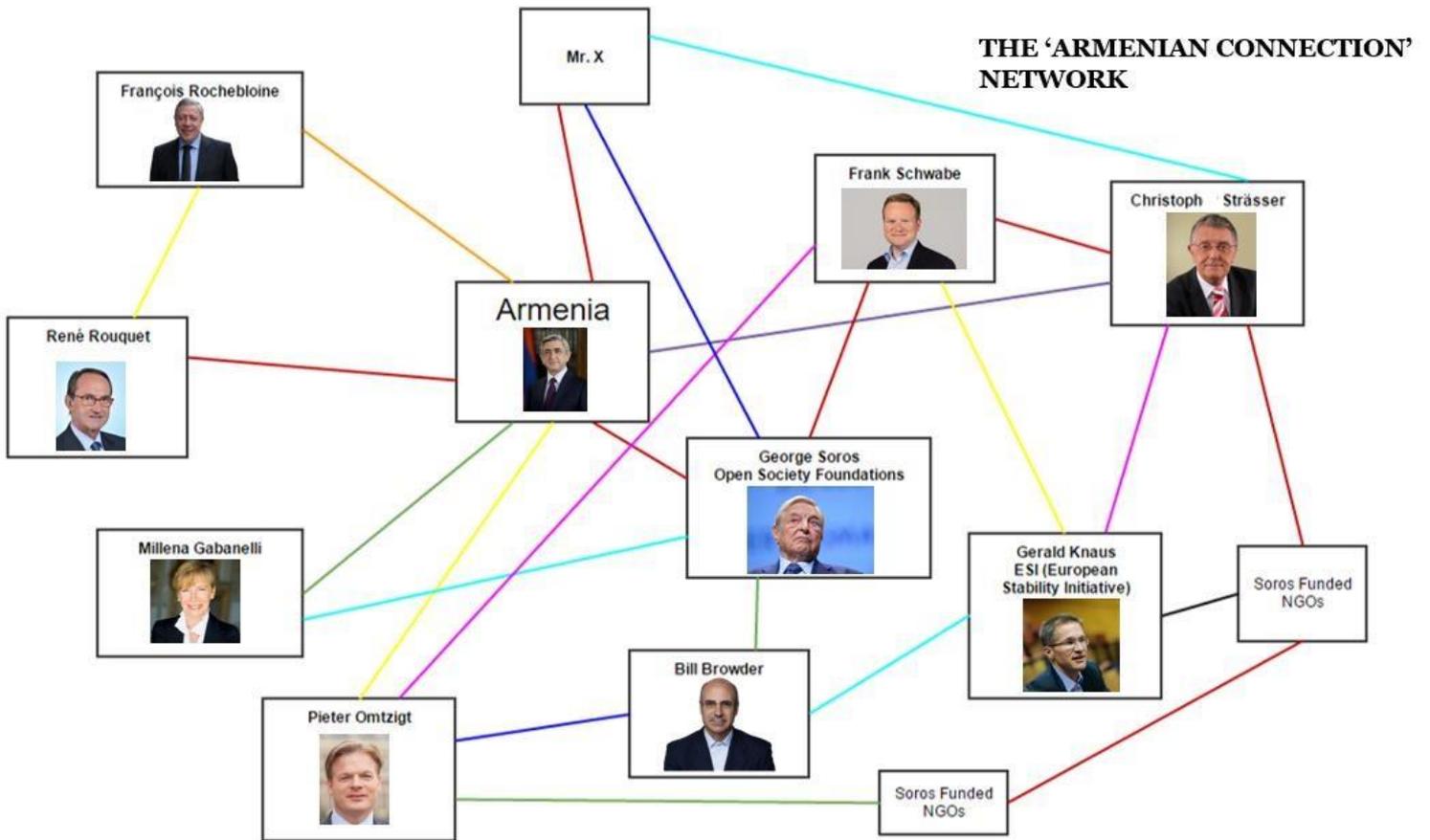
Nils Muižnieks standing with Christoph Stässer, one of the main actors of the Armenian network which operates within the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

As was announced in a previous report devoted to the Armenian network which operates stealthily within the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, we reveal today the identity of Mister “X”, the pivotal figure of the clandestine network.

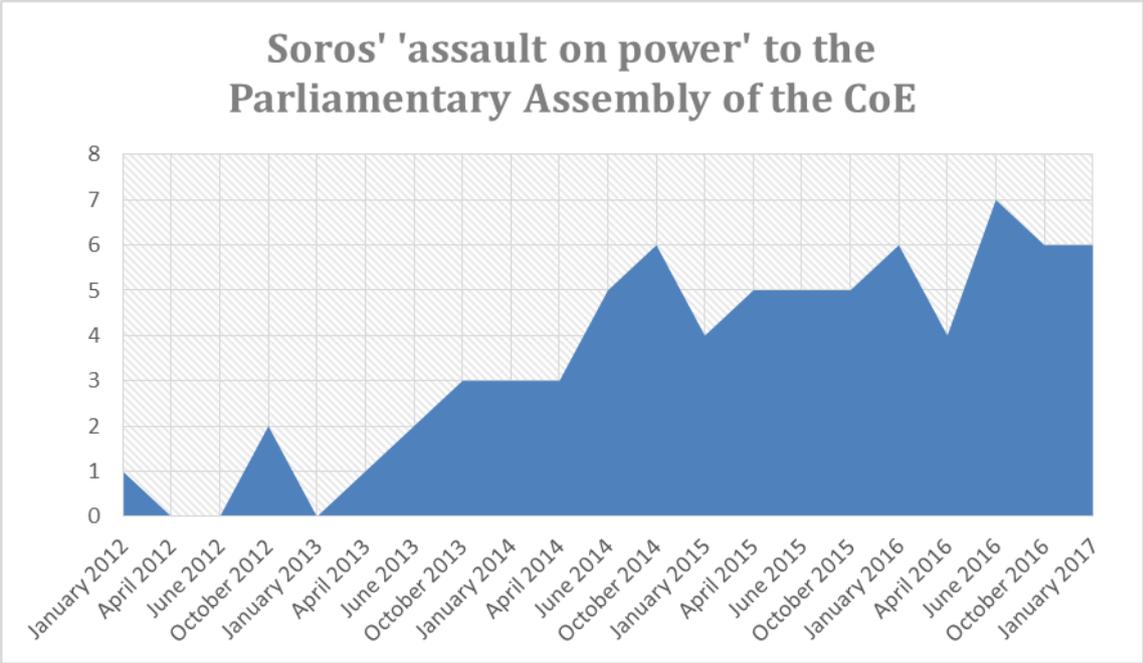
Mister “X” is the Latvian Nils Muižnieks, who for more than 5 years has been the Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights and who was an employee for Georges Soros.

Elected in 2012 by the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly, Nils Muižnieks has since been a key figure of a network that ties European PMs, Armenian officials and NGOs directly affiliated to or financed by the Soros Foundation, a network devoted to the millionaire and the Republic of Armenia’s interests.

# Organization of the Network



Thanks to his position within the Council of Europe, Nils Muižnieks acquired a major role within abovementioned NGOs among which are the well-known Human Rights Watch, European Stability Initiative (ESI), Amnesty International, Human Rights House, or even Open Dialog.



The graph above summarizes the NGOs’ activities linked to or financed by the Soros Foundation within the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly for which we give details in the following spreadsheet. This intense activity has the objective of imposing on the Council of Europe, as well as the European Parliament, George Soros and the Armenian lobby’s political positions. The “Armenian Network” which we are analyzing aims to promulgate its positions to all the members of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Council and endeavors for the greatest numbers of them to join their cause. The network is particularly active in its “hunt” for PMs that represent Nordic or Baltic countries, the Netherlands and the German socialists.

The following spreadsheet shows how over the past 5 years, since Nils Muižnieks has been the Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights, the Soros-linked NGOs gained visibility by organizing several events simultaneously and in parallel to plenary sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Sessions	Side Events	Side Events for Soros NGOs	Soros' percentage
January 2017	27	6	22%
October 2016	27	6	22%
June 2016	25	7	28%
April 2016	18	4	22%
January 2016	25	6	24%
October 2015	22	5	23%
June 2015	23	5	22%
April 2015	23	5	22%
January 2015	22	4	18%
October 2014	24	6	25%
June 2014	25	5	20%
April 2014	17	3	18%
January 2014	18	3	17%
October 2013	20	3	15%
June 2013	21	2	10%
April 2013	10	1	10%
January 2013	14	0	0%
October 2012	10	2	20%
June 2012	9	0	0%
April 2012	20	0	0%
January 2012	17	1	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>74</b>	

The data showed in the spreadsheet above is telling. Prior to Nils Muižnieks being appointed to the position of Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, NGO activity tied to the Soros Foundation was strikingly absent, a situation which quickly changed in April 2013 when their events multiplied.

## **2. The Key Members of the Network**

If it is undeniable that Nils Muižnieks is spearheading the operations of the NGOs tied to Georges Soros and that are engaged in the defense of the Republic of Armenia's interests, he can also count on the help of previous allies, starting from the Polish Wojciech Sawicky, the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General.

Muižnieks and Sawicki can also rely on the unwavering support of other MPs that we introduced in our last report:

- Pieter Omtzigt
- Christoph Strässer
- Frank Schwabbe
- Tiny Kox
- René Rouquet
- François Rocheblaine

Muižnieks, Sawicki and these MPs violate with impunity the ethical principles and codes of good conduct of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly by ensuring in all secrecy the defense of the specific interests of the Soros network and the Republic of Armenia. What's even more is that they act in violation of international law. Regarding this, let us recall the 4 UN Security Council resolutions related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (822, 853, 874 and 884) that condemn the occupation of the Azeri territory and that denounce the forced displacement of Azeri populations.

Pieter Omtzigt, Christoph Strässer, Frank Schwabbe and Tiny Kox have specialized in organizing, in parallel to the plenary sessions of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, events aimed to ensure the promotion of interests of the Soros network and to hand out good and bad ratings to Council of Europe member states. The first victims of their recurring attacks are Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey. Needless to say, the Republic of Armenia has been preserved from criticism and presented as a "model nation."

Even more scandalous, Nils Muižnieks himself organized on April 21, 2015, a symposium entitled "For a Europe without political prisoners – The case of Azerbaijan." Without having to mention the grotesque character of this shameful

attack, it would have been appreciated if the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights looked into the situation of the million of Azeri refugees, more than 10% of the total population, chased from their villages by the Armenian aggression. It is obvious this dramatic humanitarian issue does not interest Nils Muižnieks.



Nils Muižnieks (to the left) and Pieter Omtzigt (to the right), 2 men who never cease to criticize the Republic of Azerbaijan but who have never denounced the permanent violence of the Republic of Armenia against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.



Alexandra Stiglmayer, the second in command of the Soros network NGO “European Stability Initiative” during the same anti-Azerbaijan debate.

Tuesday 21 April 2015	
<p>1–2 pm Room 5, Palais</p>	<p><b>“For a Europe without political prisoners – The case of Azerbaijan”</b></p> <p>Side-event sponsored by Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) and organised by <i>European Stability Initiative (ESI)</i> and <i>Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC)</i>, in co-operation with <i>Forum 18</i> and the <i>International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)</i> with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights</li> <li>• Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL)</li> <li>• Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD)</li> <li>• Alexandra Stiglmayer, <i>European Stability Initiative</i></li> <li>• <i>FIDH</i> Honorary President Souhayr Belhassen, laureate of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe</li> <li>• Dinara Yunus, daughter of political prisoners Leyla and Arif Yunus, Azerbaijan</li> <li>• John Kinahan, <i>Forum 18</i></li> </ul>

It is also important to underline the role held by Tiny Kox, the head of the Parliamentary group “Left United”, in the symposium organized on April 21, 2015. Kox is one of the kingpins of the operation of the Soros Foundation within the Council of Europe.



Tiny Kox, a key member of the Soros network at the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly

Nils Muižnieks did not only participate in the April 21, 2015, event. He participated in numerous debates, focusing his attacks on certain member states, specifically Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey, including above, during an anti-Azerbaijan attack conducted alongside Christoph Strässer.



Nils Muižnieks and Christoph Strässer are long-time friends and are the leaders of the Armenian network that operates with discretion within the Council of Europe. The two men participate very actively for the defense of Georges Soros' interests and try by all means to impose a pro-Armenian rhetoric to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.



Nils Muižnieks and Christoph Strässer, a long-time friendship and an ideological proximity wrought by their engagement in the socialist family.

Let us note that Nils Muižnieks will be reaching the end of his mandate as Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, a prestigious position that his good friend and partner Christoph Strässer dreams of. The two men surely imagine being able to pursue their operations on behalf of the Soros network and the Armenian network with Strässer replacing his good friend Muižnieks as Commissioner for Human Rights.

In view of the information we released in our last report, it seems evident that Christoph Strässer does not have the worth to earn such a prestigious position, one that necessitates a complete independence from all partisan initiatives to dictate politics within the Council of Europe.

Since 2012, Nils Muižnieks and Christoph Strässer have weaved a complex network that ties NGOs and Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly members devoted to the interests of the Soros Foundation and the Republic of Armenia.

These high-ranking members of the Council of Europe and of NGOs directly or financially tied to the Soros network have multiplied meetings aimed at defending the specific interests we have just presented.



On the photo above, Alecandra Stiglmayer, second in command of the ESI (left), John Dalhuisen, Director for Europe of Amnesty International, and Gerald Knaus, the Director of ESI, work together on behalf of their donor, the Soros Foundation, and of their strategy on their influence on the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

A few weeks after the abovementioned meeting, John Dalhuisen, the Director for Europe of Amnesty International, participated in an event organized by the socialist Frank Schwabbe, who had as unique objective to pursue a violent anti-Azerbaijan campaign by the Armenian network with the help of Georges Soros' "men."



### **3. Who is Nils Muiznieks?**

Prior to being appointed as Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks was the Director of the Soros Foundation in Latvia from 1994 to 2001.



Still while working for Georges Soros, Nils Muiznieks also led from 1994 to 2002 the “Latvian Center for Human Rights,” renamed the “Latvian Center for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies.” These both private and partially state-controlled responsibilities are indicative of Georges Soros’ strategy in terms of the infiltration of State apparatus and public institutions, a reality that is clear in the following activity report of the Latvian Center for Human Rights (2000):

**LCESC**  
**LATVIJAS CILVĒKTIESĪBU UN**  
**ETNISKO STUDIJU CENTRS**

**LCHRES**  
**LATVIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN**  
**RIGHTS AND ETHNIC STUDIES**

Alberta iela 13 • Rīga LV 1010 • Tāl. (371) 7039290 • fakss (371) 7039291  
e-pasts: office@humanrights.org.lv

#### **Introduction**

The Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies (LCHRES) was founded in 1993 as a not-for-profit, non-partisan non-governmental organisation devoted to monitoring human rights and ethnic relations, policy advocacy and research, human rights education and training, and providing legal aid to victims of human rights violations. The LCHRES is a member of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, a network of human rights groups operating in the OSCE region.

In 2000, the LCHRES received core funding from the Soros Foundation’s Open Society Institute and project grants from the Council of Europe and the Swedish Institute. The core staff of the LCHRES consists of director Nils Muiznieks, deputy director Angelita Kamenska, senior researcher Ieva Leimane and staff lawyer Sandra Garsvane.

Below is more irrefutable proof, dating from 2002, of the financial dependency of the Latvian Center for Human Rights with regard to the Soros Foundation.

We would like to thank the donors who have supported the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies or our projects in 2002: the Open Society Institute, the Soros Foundation–Latvia, the British Embassy, the United States Embassy, the Danish Embassy, the Canadian Embassy and the European Commission.

One must wonder how much funding was transferred between the Soros Foundation and the Latvian Center for Human Rights headed by Nils Muižnieks. Even more preoccupying is the silence of the current Commissioner for Human Rights who has up to now refrained from revealing his lack of independence and the inevitable conflicts of interest created by such a situation.

Nils Muižnieks' full resume should be considered as well. The document is additional proof of the privileged relationship between the Commissioner for Human Rights and the American tycoon.

#### CURRICULUM VITAE

##### **Personal information**

Name, Surname: **NILS MUIZNIEKS**

Date of birth: 31.01.1964

Address: Advanced Social and Political Research Institute, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia, Lomonosova St. 1, Riga LV 1019 Latvia

Telephone: **office: (+371) 67089853**

E-mail address: **Nils.Muiznieks@lu.lv**

##### **Education**

1993 Ph.D. Political science, University of California, Berkeley, USA Dissertation: „The Baltic Popular Movements and the Disintegration of the Soviet Union.”  
Fields of specialisation: Soviet/East European Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations

1988 M.A. Political science, University of California, Berkeley

1986 B.A. Politics, Princeton University, *Summa cum laude*

##### **Supplementary education**

2005 Basic German, Goethe Institute, Riga

1987 Semester, Latvian Studies Programme, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, USA

1985 Intensive Russian, Monterey Institute of International Studies, USA

1984 Semester abroad at the University of Grenoble, France

**Aug. 1994-Jan. 2001 (part-time) Programme Director, Human Rights and Tolerance Programme, Soros Foundation - Latvia**

- **Developed Soros Foundation strategy on minorities/human rights. Key tasks:**
- **Project implementation:** annual tolerance award, public awareness campaign for citizenship, public debate on draft social integration policy framework, development of regional human rights centres, etc.
- **Administration:** Prepared budgets; Administered grants competitions, incl. w/ King Baudouin Foundation on ethnic dialogue, human rights coalitions, etc;
- **Communications:** Liaised with Soros board; Spokesperson for Foundation on human rights, minorities to media, New York headquarters.

**Jun. 1994-Nov. 2002 Director, Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies, Riga, Latvia**

- Created and led premier Latvian and regional human rights NGO (Winner EU-USA Democracy and Civil Society Award 1998, 1<sup>st</sup> Max van der Stoep prize 2003); Organizational focus - minority rights, closed institutions. Key tasks:
- **Racism/extremism, minority rights:** Main expert - lectures, media commentary; Managed racism/minorities projects, incl. multi-country projects; Organized advocacy campaigns re citizenship, integration policy, extremists;
- **Management/administration:** Supervised human rights monitoring, research, advocacy, education, legal aid, communication, fund-raising, staff of 10; Supervised hiring, grant writing, project implementation, financial reporting and communication; Developed budgets (€350,000); Edited publications;

**Dec. 2004-Dec. 2005 Independent consultant, Riga, Latvia**

- Latvia's candidate for Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights in September 2005, won 24 of 46 member state votes. Project development/evaluation on human rights, minority integration. **Clients:** UNDP, Aizkraukles Bank, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Welfare, **Soros Foundation** – Latvia, University of Latvia.

Even more worrisome is the fact that Nils Muižnieks not only maintained this narrow relationship and financial dependency with Georges Soros during his career in Latvia. Soros and he were also intertwined at the most importune moment in 2005, as he was already trying to be appointed as Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, a position he obtained in 2012 as he was still collaborating narrowly with Georges Soros as shown in the following document:

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The page is under construction

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[George Soros](#)  
[Employees](#)  
**The Board of the Soros Foundation - Latvia**  
[Organizations, Co-founded by SFL](#)

## The Board of the Soros Foundation - Latvia

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The mandate of the Board of the Soros Foundation – Latvia is to determine the strategy of the Foundation’s work, to approve its budget and make decisions on granting funds for Project support.

**The Chair of the SFL Board**  
**Guntars Catlaks** – Research Coordinator of Education International

**SFL Board members**  
**Kristīne Dupate** - Lawyer  
**Una Klapkalne** – Executive Director of the National News Agency LETA  
**Edvards Kušners** – Deputy Head of the Legal Department of the Bank of Latvia  
**Nils Muižnieks** – Director of the Institute of Social and Political Studies of the University of Latvia  
**Uģis Rotbergs** – Director of the World Wildlife Fund in Latvia

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Evidently, the above-presented documents show that Nils Muižnieks worked for Georges Soros since 1994 and was still at his side during his accession to the crucial position of Commissioner for Human Rights for the Council of Europe. It goes without saying that he was elected to this prestigious poste while hiding his 20-year-old privileged relation with the American businessman to the Parliamentary Assembly. This lack of transparency completely wronged the democratic rules of his election with the aim of discretely ensuring the representation of the interests of Georges Soros and the Armenian network within the Council of Europe.



#### **4. Georges Soros and the “Armenian Connection”, when personal interests trump democracy**

What objectives does Georges Soros have? It seems that he wants to destabilize sovereign states in order to impose his agenda and defend his financial interests. Let us recall his operations in Ukraine: the incredible importance acquired by Soros in the highest spheres of Ukrainian power<sup>1</sup> whom he does not hesitate to advise, if not decide for, regarding matters of economic, financial and defense policy, even recommending the training of Ukrainian armed forces in Romania, a NATO member country, by American instructors.<sup>2</sup> This destabilization strategy is not limited to Ukraine, and also targets Russia, Turkey, Hungary, Macedonia and Serbia and let us not forget the Republic of Azerbaijan which suffers countless attacks by the “Soros network” and “Armenian network” whose obscure operations within the Council of Europe institutions we denounce. These two accomplices, with specific yet converging interests, do not hesitate to hinder the democratic choices of sovereign peoples by organizing protests with secrecy and mobilizing their active followers on media and social media.

These last months, the Republic of Macedonia became the latest victim of these destabilization operations which aim to delegitimize the majority party which is supported by Macedonian citizens. This is an anti-democratic attempt organized by the “Soros network” but which is denounced as seen below in pictures taken by Macedonian citizens.

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<sup>1</sup> See pages 7-8 of our previous report.

<sup>2</sup> <https://blogs.mediapart.fr/danyves/blog/300815/fuites-comment-le-milliardaire-georges-soros-tire-les-ficelles-us-en-ukraine>



Hungary has also been a target of the “Soros network” attacks. In this case, the American used the services of his “handyman”, Nils Muižnieks, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, who led a violent attack against the Hungarian government in the New York Times columns. His aggression lacked any analysis and represented a scandalous denunciation of a member state of the Council of Europe and the European Union. It was a unilateral denigration against a European democracy which was introduced on the international media stage as a thug state. Below, an extract of the article published by Nils Muižnieks:

*“Among the countries most hostile to the European Union proposals on migration was Hungary. This comes as no surprise. Hungary’s disengagement from human rights protections and the rule of law is not new.*

*Prime Minister Viktor Orban has shrugged off this criticism and pushed ahead with an agenda that can be described only as institutionalized xenophobia. As if those violations were not enough, the police are recruiting an additional 3,000 members for what are officially called “border hunter action units,” which focus on patrolling the borders.*

*Hungary’s approach to the issue has already led to violations of human rights and unnecessary suffering. It has also undermined the values of solidarity and tolerance embodied in the Council of Europe and the European Union.*

*If Hungary persists in its defiant policy that flouts human rights law, it will meet with further international criticism and possible legal sanctions.”*

It is clear that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights went beyond his position’s duties in this caricatured attack and even worse, he went against all European Union interests. Must we recall that Hungary faces an unprecedented migratory phenomenon stemming from the Iraqi crisis, the Syrian and Libyan civil wars, as well as North African and sub-Saharan jihadism? Does Nils Muižnieks want Hungary to transform into a privileged tunnel through which millions of refugees could enter the European Union?

We are not trying to belittle the suffering of these men and women escaping war but to answer rationally and reasonably to their distress. The response offered by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights in his attack against Hungary is unacceptable. He advises that Hungary renounce its sovereignty and open its borders and consequently those of the European Union to a massive and out of hand immigration.

## **5. Nils Muižnieks, a Commissioner for Human Rights in the service of Armenia**

As we had already shown in our first report, an obscure “Armenian network” operates within the institutions of the Council of Europe to defend Erevan’s interest and in order to do so conducts repeated baseless attacks against the Republic of Azerbaijan. This is an impossible strategy without witnesses, for which the Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights is in the first row.

These destabilization operations, as useful to George Soros as to the Republic of Armenia’s interests, are conducted in a complete contradiction with the political ethics of the Council of Europe.

In order to successfully conduct this destabilization strategy, and from his position as Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks made sure to not impede on his Armenian “friends” by shedding light on human rights violations in the Republic of Armenia.

He barely authorized himself to ask questions without however weakening Erevan’s regime. During his last visit to the Armenian capital, it would have been within his purview to at least ask authorities questions about the striking issues between genders or about domestic violence. Regardless of this, and in opposition to the duties that were granted to him by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in 2012, Nils Muižnieks refrained from asking questions that could be upsetting.



Erevan faced 4 years of protests led by citizens who were confronted with the rise in electricity and public transportation prices, as well as Armenians who powerlessly witness the increasing financial insecurity of elders who fall victims to a pension-based system that looks similar to survival. The pacifist demonstrations were violently reprimanded, killing one last year. All questioning of the regime was ruthlessly stifled.

How did Nils Muižnieks react? He stayed impassive and in doing so became an objective accomplice of the repression organized by the Armenian regime.

Nonetheless, during the Ukrainian crisis, an issue that Georges Soros holds very dear, Nils Muižnieks placed himself in the frontlines to request an investigation on possible violations of protesters' rights and to denounce the repression they were allegedly victims of.

Nils Muižnieks is evidently a proponent of double standards.

To underline his partisanship and lack of objectivity and professionalism, you need only compare his statements regarding the crisis in Ukraine and the Nagorno-Karabakh occupation.

From December 7, to December 12, 2014, the Commissioner for Human Rights conducted a mission in Kiev, Moscow and Simferopol to evaluate the level of Human Rights in Crimea.

Here is an excerpt of a press release with regard to this mission signed by Nils Muižnieks:

*“All cases of serious human rights violations that have occurred in Crimea since February 2014, including the recent cases of abductions, must be effectively investigated and those responsible held accountable. Urgent steps must also be taken to ensure minority rights and security, as well as media freedom and journalists' safety.”*

The all-great defender of Human Rights that is Nils Muižnieks changed his tone when he considered the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region by Armenian militias, an occupation that was condemned by the UN, the OSCE ... and the Council of Europe of which he is the Commissioner for Human Rights.

He is an extract of his statement about this issues which still has not been resolved after 25 years of occupation:

*“Any conflict in which people are killed every week, if not every day, has negative effects on human rights, at different levels. In general, human rights are sacrificed on the altar of national security when there are conflicts. But I was pleased with some of the changes that I have seen recently in Armenia, in particular the introduction of conscientious objection and development of alternative services. These are steps forward that I consider very positively.”*

It is clear that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights minimized the extreme gravity of an occupation condemned by his own institution and the UN, the highest jurisdiction of the international community.

Adding insult to injury, Nils Muižnieks continued to spread partisan disinformation in a New York Times column published on June 28, 2015, in which he cited the Republic of Armenia as an example for the welcome of Syrian refugees. Nils Muižnieks pretended to be unaware that these refugees are of Armenian descent, making it natural for Erevan to welcome them, a hospitality that has nothing to do with the generous and neutral welcome of refugees by Germany since 2015.



Nils Muižnieks’ bias also has very negative effects within the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, as can be observed in this message sent from Thorbjørn Jagland, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, to Pedro Agramunt, President of the Parliamentary Assembly:

The Parliamentary Assembly will soon elect a number of judges to the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the Human Rights Commissioner. It is my duty to ensure that these elections take place in line with the highest ethical standards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Jagland', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thorbjørn Jagland

When reading this message, one could assume that the 324 Council of Europe MPs are potential suspects in not fulfilling their responsibilities with regard to ethics, an insulting assumption for elected officials who, for the most part, have always been respectful of democratic institutions and rules of good governance.

Thorbjørn Jagland chose the wrong target. The Council of Europe MPs do not deserve any lectures and should be free to debate and vote according to their own will.

The problems that are currently shaking the Council of Europe are related to the obscure networks that we are denouncing and that are supported by certain MPs and by the Commissioner for Human Rights. The countries that are victims of their doings can serve as witnesses.

Nevertheless, it is possible that Jagland's proximity to Georges Soros prevented him from the clairvoyance that is to be expected by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

March 26, 2015 - Roma

## George Soros and the Council of Europe reach agreement on new European Roma Institute

Billionaire financier and philanthropist George Soros and the Council of Europe are to help set up a new European Roma Institute, it has been announced.



Soros, chairman of the Open Society Foundations and Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland today authored an article published by '[European Voice](#),' which sets out the purpose of the new institute.

They write: "For more than four decades Europe's Roma community have wanted to establish an institution that would give their music, art and unique traditions their own stage.

## **6. Conclusion**

It is undeniable that the clandestine operations conducted by the Soros and Armenian networks hinder the projects of the Council of Europe. If one must understand and recognize the legitimacy of partisan engagements, they are only acceptable if publicly claimed. This transparency is an indispensable condition for democracy.

To guarantee the quality of the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly's projects, it is critical to return to total transparency in the debates it holds.

The ethical requirements for such institutions will not be reached if clandestine networks operate despite them and rules of democracy.

Let us hope that Council of Europe MPs will be attentive when selecting their next Council of Europe Human Rights commissioner.

END.

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