



# ДЪНЕНАН НОХЪИЪН КОНГРЕСС WORLD CHECHEN CONGRESS ВСЕМИРНЫЙ ЧЕЧЕНСКИЙ КОНГРЕСС

Brussel, Belgium [worldchechencongress@gmail.com](mailto:worldchechencongress@gmail.com) [denytops@gmail.com](mailto:denytops@gmail.com) 2018.04.17. № 56

World Chechen Congress, p/a Italiëlei 98a, 2000 Antwerpen t + 32 483362652

## **The Conservative Party Human Rights Commission**

### **The alternative for the Caucasus**

The Caucasus is an important geopolitical region, because of its geographical coordinates, its ancient civilisation, its natural resources and the important transportation routes crossing the region. As a result the Caucasus has now become one of the key intersections of the "great powers'" geopolitical interests. Today, Russia's militaristic policies threaten to destroy Caucasian civilization, which for thousands of years has been a core part of the cultural panorama of the region and an important factor in its socio-political development. Its preservation is guaranteed by several international instruments.

A fundamental aspect of the negative relations between the peoples of the Caucasus and Russia, is that they were forcibly annexed by Russia at the end of XIXth century and but were never integrated and the people were discriminated against, and kept apart with separate status. As a result, Russia has had to spend many years of bloody war to suppress uprisings by Caucasians who refused to become a part of Russia. Because of this, Caucasians have psychologically felt that they were colonially oppressed due to frequent military conflict, repression and deportation of citizens since the XVIIIth century.

The Russian occupation of the Caucasus led to a catastrophic loss of life, the destruction of historical values, and the irreversible loss of intellectual and cultural life. The Caucasus is the "main gateway" of Russia to its Middle Eastern satellite states. In connection with its policy in Syria the wide traffic for "Islamic missionaries" in the Caucasus has been opened. Thanks to that, the North Caucasus has turned into a kind of North Korea with a radical religious bias.

The aggressive policy of Russia in Ukraine, crimes in Syria, and confrontation with the West, are the consequences of the failure of international institutions to deal with the Russian-Chechen historical conflict. Now this conflict has acquired partisan forms, and it has already sucked in all the peoples of the Caucasus region. Russia "fighting" against "terrorism in Chechnya", led to the war with Georgia and Ukraine, and their partial occupation. There is every prospect that after the completing "the Syrian issue," Russia will further increase its pressure on Ukraine, Belarus, the Caucasus and the Central Asian republics, regardless of their status. Accordingly, the military-political pressure and armed conflicts in these republics could grow into a global problem, with the involvement of the world powers and with great loss of life. This is a frightening prospect that the international community cannot afford to ignore.

Russia is clearly a destabilising influence in the Caucasus. The Caucasus needs a new ideology, based on multiculturalism and secularism. But the Russian regime is preventing the emergence of such an ideology in the Caucasus, killing supporters of a secular state in the region, and forcing an increase in support for radical Islam. Caucasians are primarily dissatisfied with the West because of its collaboration with Russia. The West considers that the Russian government is a stabilising force, and fears that radical Islamists will come to the Caucasus instead of Russia. It is actually the opposite. That is to say that the presence of Russia in the Caucasus encourages radicalism. No Russia, no radicalism.

These circumstances dictate the need for a Caucasian coalition of political forces and the creation of the unified organisation of the Caucasian peoples. In particular, and as a counterweight to religious adventurous projects like the "Caucasus Emirate" and ISIS, threatening not only the Caucasus but also the whole of Europe. No doubt, the appearance of an independent political force in the Caucasus, that would take control of the region is just a matter of time. But the most important thing in this eventuality is what direction will it follow? A radical religious one or a national secular one?

There is already a social order on the emergence of a new force. It should be noted that the majority of Caucasians are counting on the national and secular development of the region. They want the appearance of Caucasian political forces that will be aiming to construct a European-oriented 'Caucasian Union'. There is an interest of South-Caucasian republics in such a force, and it would be logical for the West to have the same interest. Due to the West's sanctions on Russia, the Russian elite is starting to understand that the North Caucasus is more of a problem than an issue of national prestige.

Consequently, the Caucasus is a significant and promising region for the EU, both from the point of view of geopolitics, and the availability of labour and energy resources. Therefore, the EU can join the political processes of the Caucasus and, not only to resolve the South Caucasian conflicts unleashed by Russia, but also to stabilise the situation in the North Caucasus, which is profitable for the EU from three strategic positions. Firstly, it would prove the EU's ability to act as an alternative to Russian imperial attempts in the Caucasus, which, among other things, are a source of threat to the energy interests of the EU. Europe can pursue a more bold policy in the Caucasus, as Russia has lost its credibility, and will soon lose its political influence in the region. But in the absence of proactive involvement by the EU, the field is being actively captured by radical Islamism. Secondly, EU involvement would ensure control over the supply of energy resources to the West, circumventing Russia. Thirdly, such a policy would open additional resource territory for the EU, its business partners and its allies.

US and EU support of the "Caucasian organisation" is necessary for the hopes of the peoples of the region for the withdrawal of Russia from the Caucasus, bloodlessly. Such a process will undoubtedly be supported by the Caucasian peoples, who are tired of Russian militarism and religious extremism. All empires have disintegrated, and Russia will not be an exception. Therefore, the world community, which in the future will find itself compelled to tackle the Caucasus region, should take care with whom it will conduct business in the Caucasus, with religious radicals or national democrats. In addition, the activation of the socio-political activities of the "Caucasian organisation" would help to promote the so-called "Russian opposition" and would remove the heavy burden from the Russian-Ukrainian confrontation, thus diverting the Russian regime to internal Russian problems.

The creation of a "Caucasian organisation" is necessary for all stakeholders. Certain socio-political institutions of the Caucasus and well-known Caucasian politicians are ready to participate in the project, and have proved themselves as credible advocates of a democratic alternative for the Caucasus.

In terms of implementing these proposals, it is recommended to:

1. Organise a Peace Conference on the current situation in the Caucasus in the European Parliament.
2. Form a "Council for the Caucasus" under the patronage of the European Parliament or the Council of Europe, the United Nations, with the participation of American, European and Caucasian politicians. In particular, the "Council" will develop a strategy to counter military escalation and terrorism.

*Yours sincerely,*  
Professor Deny Teps, Doctor of Legal Science