

*Translation from the Lithuanian press release of 31 Jan 2012:*

## Parliamentary faction of the Lithuanian Social Democracy Party press release

31 January 2012

### MP V. Andriukaitis Receives Support for Declaration Signature

UK House of Commons member Dr. Denis MacShane sent his greetings to MP Vytenis Andriukaitis and expressed strong support for the declaration he signed commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference. This declaration rejected efforts to trivialize the atrocities of the genocide of the Jews, underlining the Holocaust is not equal to nor can it be totally equivalent to the crimes of the Stalinist regime. Another seven [Lithuanian] Social Democrats signed the declaration as well as members of the German Bundestag, representatives of the UK's House of Commons and parliamentarians from Slovakia, Finland, Austria, Ireland, Belgium, Sweden, Romania, Slovenia, Portugal, Hungary, Spain, Latvia, the Czech Republic and France.

"The words of derision for the Social Democrats for signing this declaration that we heard last week from the Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis have received a large response from representatives of the United Kingdom's House of Commons," head of the Social Democrat parliamentary faction V. Andriukaitis noted.

D. MacShane in his letter said he is very saddened that the foreign minister instead of lending support to this move instead attempted to "slander" the signers of the declaration. The minister's joke that "one can only find a difference between Hitler and Stalin in the lengths of

their moustaches (Hitler's was smaller)" was also unacceptable and inappropriate in a discussion of the mass murder of six million Jews.

The letter went on to say the whole world is watching the growing antisemitic comments and media reports in Lithuania. The former UK foreign minister also said that every decent British and European citizen supports the position of the signatories.

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PS [Original letter attached.](#)