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Biggest Selling Singer of All Time is Homophobe.

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by Thomas <nell_gwynne@> Sep 21, 2004 at 02:50 PM

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Statement posted by Kurt Krickler, Vienna, Austria, of the International Gay and Lesbian Association, on the "Direct Forum" messageboard of the Nana Mouskouri website (www.nana.mouskouri.online.fr) at 15.29 on 20 September 2004, and immediately removed by webmaster, Philippe Berri.

"First of all, I want to stress that Nana Mouskouri's term in the European Parliament (EP) coincided with me being co-chair of ILGA-Europe (www.ilga-europe.org), especially in the years 1997-1999. In that time I attended on a regular basis the monthly meetings in Strasbourg of the (cross-party) EP Intergroup on equal rights for gays and lesbians. In the Intergroup we often commented, amongst ourselves, upon Mouskouri's voting behaviour. It was not that we took her too seriously, but because she is such a gay icon we wondered why she always voted against gay and lesbian rights. The gay and lesbian assistants of various members of the European Parliament followed her voting behaviour much closer than I did, and so I think it would have been noticed if she once voted in favour of LGBT rights.

Nana Mouskouri voted against Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender (LGBT) rights or pro-LGBT wordings in motions and resolutions on the following occasions:

1. The annual report on respect for human rights in the European Union for 1995 (document A4-0112/97), drafted by German Green MEP Claudia Roth, was put to a vote on 8 April 1997. Mouskouri not only voted against Amendment 15 to the draft resolution, welcoming the fact that Sweden and Denmark provided for the legal recognition of homosexual couples and urging all other member states to follow that example, but she also voted against the full resolution that contained pro-LGBT wording in items 121, 135, 136 and 137. Although non-binding, these annual reports and resolutions on human rights in the EU have been very important as texts adopted by the European Parliament since they also address respect for the human rights of LGBT people.

2. On 15 July 1998 Mouskouri voted against putting on the agenda of the European Parliament an emergency resolution condemning the violation of the human rights of homosexuals in Romania. The motion was defeated.

3. On 16 September 1998, Mouskouri again voted against putting on the agenda of the European Parliament a resolution in favour of the human rights of homosexuals. However, this time, the motion was passed and the resolution was put to a vote the next day, 17 September. Mouskouri missed that vote on the resolution. Her name does not appear on the roll-call record. Thus, when this resolution finally made it onto the EP agenda, Mouskouri had not voted against it, although neither had she attended and voted for its inclusion. This resolution (document #B4-0824 and 0852) was one of the most important pro-LGBT resolutions ever passed in the European Parliament. It urged, among other things, that Austria repeal its discriminatory age of consent legislation, and it stated the EP's commitment not to "give its consent to the accession of any country that, through its legislation or policies, violates the human rights of lesbians and gay men". This was a historic statement and led to the repeal by 2002 of anti-gay criminal code provisions in five EU accession countries.

4. On 10 February 1999, the EP voted on the "second report on the proposal for a Council Act establishing the Convention on rules for the admission of third-country nationals to the Member States" (Lehne

report, doc. #A4-0045/99). An amendment (#44) tabled for the report sought to include in this proposal non-married partners regardless of sex for the purpose of family reunion. Nana Mouskouri voted against this amendment.

5. On the same day, the European Parliament voted on the Lindeperg report (doc. #A4-0450/98) "on the harmonisation of forms of protection complementing refugee status in the European Union". Amendment 1 sought to add to the "Considerations" of the draft report that several member states already granted refugee status to people persecuted on the grounds of their sexual orientation, while Amendment 2 sought to ensure that countries with a total ban on homosexuality should not be considered as safe countries of origin or transit for gays and lesbians, and to urge member states not already doing so to grant asylum to persons persecuted on the grounds of their sexual orientation. Mouskouri voted not only against both amendments but also against the full report/resolution.

I think these five examples are proof enough of Nana Mouskouri's anti-LGBT voting record during her years as a member of the European Parliament. Anyone undertaking further research (all records are kept by the European Parliament) will not find, I am afraid, any more favourable examples of Nana Mouskouri's voting behaviour.

Kurt Krickler, Vienna."

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