

# The Session

**Secretariat of the  
Parliamentary  
Assembly,  
Communication Unit**

Council of Europe  
Avenue de l'Europe  
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

Tel. +33 3 88 41 31 93  
Fax +33 3 90 21 41 34  
e-mail: [pace.com@coe.int](mailto:pace.com@coe.int)  
<http://assembly.coe.int>



**The Session** is the information bulletin for plenary sessions of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. It is published four times a year in the two official languages of the Organisation and is also available on the Assembly's website.

## 4 to 8 October 2004

### Monday 4

- Statement by Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan-African Parliament
- Communication from Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- The Doha Development Agenda: world trade at a crossroads, and statement by Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director General of the WTO

### Tuesday 5

- Functioning of democratic institutions in Serbia and Montenegro
- Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Assembly presented by Jan Petersen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway
- Address by H.S.H. Crown Prince Albert of Monaco
- The implementation of Resolution 1358 (2004) on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan
- A European strategy for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Women's participation in elections

### Wednesday 6

- Statement by Giovanni Di Stasi, President of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- Possible urgent debate: challenge of terrorism in Council of Europe member states
- Address by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey
- The OECD and the world economy, and statement by Berglind Ásgeirsdóttir, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD

### Thursday 7

- Joint debate: the political and human rights situation in the Chechen Republic and the humanitarian situation of the Chechen displaced population
- The implementation of Resolutions 1361 (2004) and 1374 (2004) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia
- Global warming: beyond Kyoto

### Friday 8

- New concepts to evaluate the state of democratic development
- A campaign to combat domestic violence against women in Europe
- Education for Europe
- Population trends in Europe and their sensitivity to policy measures

**The order of business as shown here  
may change on the first day of the session**

# The 45

The Council of Europe brings together 45 democracies including 21 central and eastern European countries. Today, the Organisation has almost completed its enlargement but continues to increase its monitoring to ensure that all its members respect the obligations and commitments they entered into when they joined.



Member states: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

# The Parliamentary Assembly

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 626 members (313 representatives and 313 substitutes) from the national parliaments of the 45 member states of the Council of Europe.

Countries that have joined the Council of Europe since November 1990: Hungary (1990), Poland (1991), Bulgaria (1992), Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Romania (1993), Latvia, Albania, Moldova, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Ukraine (1995), the Russian Federation, Croatia (1996), Georgia (1999), Armenia, Azerbaijan (2001), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2002), Serbia and Montenegro (2003).

Applications for membership: Belarus (12 March 1993) and Monaco (21 October 1998), which is due to join the organisation on 5 October 2004. The Special Guest status of the Belarus parliament was suspended on 13 January 1997.

The parliaments of Canada (1997), Israel (1957) and Mexico (1999) hold observer status with the Assembly.

# The political groups



**208**

Socialist Group (SOC)



**169**

Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)



**91**

Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' Group (LDR)



**83**

European Democratic Group (EDG)



**34**

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)

# The Assembly committees

## 82 seats

Political Affairs  
Legal Affairs and Human Rights  
Economic Affairs and Development  
Social, Health and Family Affairs  
Migration, Refugees and Population  
Culture, Science and Education  
Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

Honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring)

## 50 seats

Equal Opportunities for Women and Men  
Rules of Procedure and Immunities



---

# Monday 4 October 2004

☞ Afternoon (3 p.m.-7.30 p.m.)

## ◆ **Opening of the fourth part of the 2004 Ordinary Session**

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Peter Schieder, will open the fourth part of the 2004 Ordinary Session. The Assembly will begin by examining the credentials of any new members notified by national delegations (Rules 6 and 59 of the Rules of Procedure) and will deal with any changes in the membership of committees.

It will also consider any requests for urgent or current affairs debates and will then adopt its order of business<sup>1</sup> (Rule 25.7 of the Rules of Procedure). In addition to the Bureau's proposal for an urgent debate on "the challenge of terrorism in Council of Europe member states" (see item below), only one further request has been received, for a current affairs debate on "Georgian-Russian relations" submitted by the Georgian parliamentary delegation.

The Assembly will also adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee in Oslo on 7 September 2004.

## ◆ **Statement by [Gertrude Mongella](#), President of the Pan-African Parliament**

## ◆ **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee**

*Rapporteur: Luc Van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD)*

The progress report covers the discussions held and decisions reached by the Bureau and the Standing Committee since the last part-session, including a report by Tana de Zulueta (Italy, SOC) on PACE's observation of the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan (19 September 2004) and the concluding of a co-operation agreement between PACE and the Venice Commission, the Council of Europe's group of independent constitutional law experts, which is due to be signed by the Presidents of both bodies during a ceremony today.

Contact in the secretariat: Petr Sich, tel. 2127.

---

1. The order of business as contained in this document is thus subject to amendment by the Assembly on the first day of the part-session.

◆ **Communication from [Terry Davis](#), Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

Following his address, the Secretary General will answer questions from members of the Assembly.

◆ **The Doha Development Agenda: world trade at a crossroads**

[Doc. 10278](#)

*Report of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development*

*Rapporteur: Kimmo Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD)*

World trade is increasing – up by an expected 8 per cent in 2004, according to the Economic Affairs Committee – yet if the quickening process of globalisation is to benefit all the world's population, final agreement within the World Trade Organisation on the so-called "Doha development agenda" is urgently needed. The promise by richer countries to phase out all export subsidies in agriculture is welcome, but there needs to be parallel progress in the liberalisation of services and lower industrial tariffs, the committee believes. The drive for greater and fairer trade has limits too: core labour standards – for example, a total ban on child labour – should be built into any agreement. In the longer term, reform of WTO decision-making may be necessary if the organisation is to continue as an engine of world growth, contributing in turn to prosperity and peace.

**Statement by [Supachai Panitchpakdi](#), Director General of the World Trade Organisation**

Contact in the secretariat: Kjell Torbiörn, tel. 2120.

---

# Tuesday 5 October 2004

☞ Morning (10 a.m.-12.45 p.m.)

◆ **Functioning of democratic institutions in Serbia and Montenegro**

[Doc. 10281](#)

*Report of the Monitoring Committee*

*Co-rapporteurs: Milos Budin (Italy, SOC) and Jonas Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR)*

Four years after the fall of Milošević, Serbia and Montenegro is a country which has "changed enormously but not yet enough", according to the co-rapporteurs. In its first assessment since Serbia and Montenegro joined the Council of Europe in April 2003, the Monitoring Committee points to the successes – the creation of the State Union, the signing of formal treaties as promised and ambitious programmes of legislative reform in both republics – carried out despite the legacy of Milošević. Yet opportunities have been squandered and problems remain: the State Union and its institutions remain "a nearly powerless shell", election fatigue has undermined voters' faith in democracy, moderate pro-European leaders have failed to unite to oppose renewed extremism, there are fears of interference in the judiciary, and inter-ethnic relations in Serbia are deteriorating, notably in Vojvodina. Finally, co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is getting worse. The committee calls for greater effort on all these fronts, recommending that Serbia and Montenegro continue to be monitored by PACE.

Contact in the secretariat: Matjaž Gruden, tel. 2118.

◆ **Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly presented by [Jan Petersen](#), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers**

Following his presentation, Mr Petersen will answer questions from the members of the Assembly, which must be tabled at the latest by 4 p.m. on Monday 4 October.

◆ **Address by [H.S.H. Crown Prince Albert of Monaco](#)**

The accession ceremony for the Principality of Monaco will take place in the main hall of the Palais de l'Europe at 12.45 p.m., immediately following the Crown Prince's address to the Assembly. Monaco will become the 46th member state of the Council of Europe.

---

# Tuesday 5 October 2004

☞ Afternoon (3 p.m.-7.30 p.m.)

♦ **Implementation of Resolution 1358 (2004) on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan**

[Doc. 10285](#)

*Report of the Monitoring Committee*

*Co-rapporteurs: Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) and Andres Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD)*

In its January 2004 resolution, PACE said Azerbaijan's progress was "far from satisfactory", calling for a full investigation into the serious fraud during the October 2003 election and post-election violence, greater freedom for the media, and speedier progress on electoral, constitutional and legal reforms. In this latest assessment, the Monitoring Committee says that, despite positive signs from the President – in particular the four pardon decrees for political and alleged political prisoners – and an improved climate of trust, progress is still inadequate. Light still needs to be shed on the human rights violations that took place during and after the election, much more can be done to secure freedom of the press – not least transforming Azerbaijan's two state TV channels into a genuinely independent public service broadcasting organisation – and reform of the judicial system must be pursued. Finally, the problem of political prisoners should be conclusively resolved. The committee recommends that monitoring of Azerbaijan continue, in particular the conduct of coming elections.

Contact in the secretariat: David Cupina, tel. 2117.

♦ **European strategy for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights**

[Doc. 10266](#)

*Report of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee*

*Rapporteur: Christine McCafferty (United Kingdom, SOC)*

*Opinion of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men*

*Rapporteur: Rosmarie Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD)*

Reproductive health is not just the absence of disease but – in the words of the 1994 Cairo Population Summit – "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being", implying the right of individuals to a safe and satisfying sex life which also leaves them free to decide if and when to have children. But this right is far from being guaranteed in Europe, with large variations between Council of Europe member states. The problems are many: increasing teenage pregnancies, high rates of sexually transmitted infections, rising infertility, mediocre sex education and – worst of all – sexual exploitation and trafficking. The solution, according to the Social Affairs Committee, is comprehensive and properly-funded national strategies which make advice and services (such as health screening or contraception) available to all those who need them, especially young people. Meanwhile, those countries with high standards of sexual and reproductive health can serve as models for all.

Contact in the secretariat: Dana Karanjac, tel. 4877.

◆ **Women's participation in elections**

[Doc. 10202](#)

*Report of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men  
Rapporteur: Paschal Mooney (Ireland, LDR)*

Despite great strides in recent years, many women still do not have a fair chance both to freely elect the candidate of their choice and to be elected themselves. "Family voting" – in which men mark or influence the ballots of female family members – still takes place in some European countries. At the other end of the electoral process, women are still woefully under-represented in national parliaments – of the Council of Europe's 45 member parliaments, only Sweden has achieved the 40 per cent threshold for women's representation recommended by the Committee of Ministers. What is needed, according to the Equality Committee, is a "Charter for Electoral Equality" in which European governments would promise to take measures to crack down on family voting and would pledge – among other things – to increase women's representation in parliament to 40 per cent by the year 2020.

Contact in the secretariat: Tanja Kleinsorge, tel. 2906.

**The first ever meeting of women members of the Assembly is due to take place at 7.30 p.m. or at the end of the sitting, in Room 5. Organised at the initiative of the Chairperson of the Assembly's Equality Committee, Minodora Cliveti (Romania, SOC), the meeting will focus on promoting gender-balanced representation in the Assembly.**

---

# Wednesday 6 October 2004

☞ Morning (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

- ◆ **Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Slovakia**

[Doc. 10263](#)

*Voting takes place from 10 a.m. to midday in the area behind the presidential rostrum.*

- ◆ **Statement by [Giovanni Di Stasi](#), President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**

- ◆ **Possible urgent debate: challenge of terrorism in Council of Europe member states**

At its meeting on Tuesday 7 September 2004, the Bureau proposed holding an urgent debate on “the challenge of terrorism in Council of Europe member States”, to be referred to the Political Affairs Committee for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for oral opinion. The Assembly will decide on this proposal when it adopts its order of business on the first day of the part-session (see item above).

- ◆ **Address by [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](#), Prime Minister of Turkey**

Following his address, the Prime Minister will answer questions from members of the Assembly.



---

# Wednesday 6 October 2004

Afternoon (3 p.m.-7.30 p.m.)

◆ **Possible urgent debate: challenge of terrorism in Council of Europe member states (continued)**

◆ **OECD and the world economy**

[Doc. 10254 prov.](#)

*Report of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development*

*Rapporteur: Abdülkadir Ateş (Turkey, SOC)*

*Doc.*

*Contribution from the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee*

*Spokesperson: Alain Cousin (France, EPP/CD)*

*Doc.*

*Contribution from the Committee on Culture, Science and Education*

*Spokesperson: Jacques Legendre (France, EPP/CD)*

*Doc.*

*Contribution from the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs*

*Spokesperson: Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC)*

In his provisional report, the rapporteur welcomes the resumption of healthy economic growth in the OECD area, but worries that slow growth – especially in parts of the Eurozone – current high oil prices or a failure to agree the Doha Development Agenda could derail it. He also calls on OECD countries to abide by the recently-revised Principles of Corporate Governance, to meet agreed environmental goals and to take steps to ensure that globalisation benefits all the world's citizens, in the interest of international peace and stability. PACE has served as the parliamentary forum for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development since 1962. In practice, this means that each year parliamentarians from OECD countries that are not members of the Council of Europe (currently Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, New Zealand and the United States of America) are invited to join the Assembly for an enlarged debate on the activities undertaken by the 30-member organisation to further the world economy.

**Statement by Berglind Ásgeirsdóttir, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD**

Contact in the secretariat: Kjell Torbiörn, tel. 2120.

---

# Thursday 7 October 2004

☞ Morning (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

◆ **Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Slovakia (possible second round)**

*Voting takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the area behind the presidential rostrum.*

◆ **Joint debate**

**The political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to increase democratic stability in accordance with Council of Europe standards**

[Doc. 10276](#)

*Report of the Political Affairs Committee*

*Rapporteur: Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC)*

The continued death toll and human suffering in the Chechen Republic are of concern to all the Council of Europe's member states, which must come to the aid of the Chechen people and the Russian government, according to the Political Affairs Committee. The hostage-taking at Beslan was, in the eyes of the committee, "a gross crime against humanity". One answer to it is greater co-operation against terrorism – including an early start on a Council of Europe convention on terrorism. However, the committee also appeals to the Russian authorities not to react in kind, but with caution and consideration, according to the rule of law. To help increase democratic stability in the republic, it proposes a Round Table for politicians from the Chechen Republic and Russia as a whole which – according to the rapporteur – should involve only those who renounce violence. Other proposals include a "conflict map", to be established by the newly elected Chechen President, which would identify and find ways to re-integrate into society the different groups who currently perpetuate the conflict, as well as further moves to collect weapons, greater openness for the media and – with the Council of Europe's help – more resolute action against corruption and organised crime.

Contact in the secretariat: Rüdiger Dossow, tel. 2859.

**Human rights situation in the Chechen Republic**

[Doc. 10283](#)

*Report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*

*Rapporteur: Rudolf Bindig (Germany, SOC)*

The continuing massive violations of human rights in the Chechen Republic are "by far the most serious human rights issue in any of the Council's member states", according to the Legal Affairs Committee, and the credibility of the whole organisation depends on its ability to convince the Russian Federation to meet its commitments in this respect. While there are fewer "special operations" by the security forces, arbitrary detention – often followed by disappearances, torture or beatings – are still occurring on a massive scale and the "climate of impunity" identified in earlier PACE reports still prevails, with perpetrators of even the most serious human rights violations still not brought to justice. Moreover, the conflict in the North Caucasus seems to be spreading like an epidemic, threatening the rule of law throughout the Russian Federation. According to the committee, a clear signal should be sent, at the highest level, that all security and law enforcement officials must respect human rights, systematic monitoring by national and international human rights organisations should be permitted, and the news media should have access to the region. Finally, reprisals against people filing applications to the European Court of Rights must cease.

Contact in the secretariat: Günter Schirmer, tel. 2809.

## **The humanitarian situation of the Chechen displaced population**

[Doc. 10282](#)

*Report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population*

*Rapporteur: Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC)*

The plight of the Chechen displaced population must be dealt with regardless of political considerations, the Migration Committee again stresses. Their situation remains very precarious, it says, with between 30 000 and 50 000 displaced people from Chechnya in Ingushetia, and thousands more throughout other parts of Russia. All unsatisfactory refugee camps in Ingushetia are now closed, cottages are being constructed and there are developments in the process of paying compensation to families who have lost houses and property. Yet the committee expresses concern at reports that undue pressure is being placed on Chechen internally displaced persons to return home, despite the unsatisfactory security and humanitarian situation there. It recognises the efforts made by the Russian authorities to reconstruct the destroyed Republic, but believes there is a continuous problem of accountability and control over spending. Among other things, Russia should remove bureaucratic obstacles to the work of humanitarian agencies in both Chechnya and Ingushetia, while the Council of Europe could help further through its Development Bank and possible partnerships between North Caucasus municipalities hosting refugees and other towns in Europe. The committee also calls for the convening of a consultative conference on how resources for rebuilding in Chechnya can be used most effectively.

Contact in the secretariat: Halvor Lervik, tel. 2121.

**[Alvaro Gil-Robles](#), Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, will make a contribution to the joint debate following his recent visit to Moscow and the North Caucasus, including the Chechen Republic.**

---

# Thursday 7 October 2004

☞ Afternoon (3 p.m.-6.30 p.m.)

◆ **Implementation of Resolutions 1361 (2004) and 1374 (2004) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia**

[Doc. 10286](#)

*Report of the Monitoring Committee*

*Co-rapporteurs: René André (France, EPP/CD) and Jerzy Jaskiernia (Poland, SOC)*

In an April resolution, PACE said it would reconsider the credentials of the Armenian parliamentary delegation if there had been no progress on its demands to investigate the human rights violations that occurred during the demonstrations of March and early April 2004, release those detained and create fair conditions for the media. In this report, the Monitoring Committee expresses satisfaction at the excellent co-operation of the Armenian authorities, noting that investigations into these incidents took place, that the persons detained were released and that peaceful demonstrations now continue to be authorised. Requests for reform in an earlier resolution have likewise resulted in a number of steps, the committee notes, including planned constitutional changes to allow parliament to nominate an ombudsman, proposals to reinforce the independence of the judiciary and improvements to the Law on Radio and Television. The committee says it now expects rapid progress on revising the code of criminal procedure, improving conditions of detention and the fair issuing of broadcasting licenses, among other things.

Contact in the secretariat: David Cupina, tel. 2117.

◆ **Global warming: beyond Kyoto**

[Doc. 10277](#)

*Report of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs*

*Rapporteur: Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC)*

Global warming is one of the most serious challenges to the sustainable development of our planet, and ultimately the survival of mankind, according to the Environment Committee. The answer is for the international community jointly to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the goal of the Kyoto Protocol, which PACE fully supports. The keys will be to limit the consumption of fossil fuels and develop renewable resources while trying to reduce energy demand overall. Member states which have ratified the Kyoto Protocol should swiftly implement it, and those which have not yet ratified it – notably the Russian Federation – should do so as soon as possible. Meanwhile, European governments should think about giving tax breaks to promote renewable energy, developing public transport and hybrid vehicles, limiting air transport by taxing fuel, building more energy-efficient houses and – above all – raising public awareness of the problem of global warming.

Contact in the secretariat: Marine Trévisan, tel. 3716.

**The Joint Committee, which is the organ of co-ordination between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly, meets at 6.30 p.m. or the end of the sitting in Room 9. Items on the agenda include the fight against terrorism and current Council of Europe monitoring procedures. The Joint Committee is composed of a representative of each member government and a corresponding number of Assembly members, made up of Bureau members plus one representative from each national delegation not represented on the Bureau.**

---

# Friday 8 October 2004

☞ Morning (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

◆ **New concepts to evaluate the state of democratic development**

[Doc. 10279](#)

*Report of the Political Affairs Committee*

*Rapporteur: Adrian Severin (Romania, SOC)*

Promoting democracy is one of the three main aims of the Council of Europe, and the state of democratic development in its member states is therefore closely monitored by the Organisation, both before accession and after, old member states and new. Yet despite these efforts there is a dangerous crisis developing in democracy, the Political Affairs Committee believes, characterised by low turnout, voter apathy, a lack of respect for politicians and a tendency to elect managers instead of leaders, entertainment stars instead of statespeople. The committee suggests that it may be time to start considering, in addition to the traditional set of "democratic standards" – free and fair elections, the separation of powers, and so on – a new set which might include broader, more abstract criteria such as the transparency of government action, the accountability of decision-making bodies, the degree of influence of groups such as foreign nationals, NGOs, civic society, religions, women, the security services and the military in political life, or the degree of independence of the media from government or business. Using these new yardsticks, which would take into account the variety of cultural, historical and social experience across Europe, the committee proposes periodic reports on "the state of democratic development" of member and observer states.

Contact in the secretariat: Rüdiger Dossow, tel. 2859.

◆ **Campaign to combat domestic violence against women in Europe**

[Doc. 10273](#)

*Report of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men*

*Rapporteur: Jean-Guy Branger (France, EPP/CD)*

Over a quarter of violent incidents reported in Europe are a matter of assault by a man on his wife or companion, and one in seven women has been forced to have sex or been raped, according to recent figures. In the pre-enlargement EU countries alone, over 600 women were killed each year, subjected to their spouse's brutality within the family circle. Domestic violence against women affects every Council of Europe member state, according to the Equality Committee, and dealing with it should be a national political priority. But the Assembly's urgent call – issued in a September 2002 recommendation – for a European campaign against domestic violence has so far resulted in no action from the Council of Europe's executive body, the Committee of Ministers. The committee regrets this, again stressing that provision of information to the public is one key aspect of tackling the problem. It repeats its call for such a campaign in 2006, alongside EU bodies and NGOs, and pledges the Assembly's help in organising one.

Contact in the secretariat: Tanja Kleinsorge, tel. 2906.

◆ **Education for Europe**

[Doc. 10203](#)

*Report of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education*  
*Rapporteur: Gheorghe Prisăcaru (Romania, SOC)*

The Council of Europe has been working for more than fifty years to bring the countries of Europe together around fundamental values, in particular respect for human rights, political pluralism, the rule of law and cultural diversity. Education, which is essential for encouraging people to play their full part as citizens in democratic societies, has a central place in its work. European governments should add a European dimension to school curricula, the Culture Committee believes, and encourage municipalities and civil society to discuss Europe in all its diversity, not least by using the new information technologies. Finally, it calls for a European treaty on education for democratic citizenship and human rights.

Contact in the secretariat: Christopher Grayson, tel. 2114.

◆ **Population trends in Europe and their sensitivity to policy measures**

[Doc. 10182](#)

*Report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population*  
*Rapporteur: Christian Brunhart (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD)*

After a century of natural population increase, Europe is now facing falling birthrates and an ever-older population. This is not all bad, according to the Migration Committee – people today are freer, healthier, have more leisure time and live longer – but the problem now is to guarantee an “age-friendly” environment which protects the social and human rights of individuals while ensuring that the well-being of this greying population is not achieved at the expense of future generations. The reasons behind this demographic change are complex and simplistic policies will not work, the committee believes. To achieve a stable population, member states should make child-rearing easier for women and involve fathers more, create a more child-friendly environment – particularly in cities – and find ways to activate the “younger elderly”. Meanwhile, they should adapt social protection to make it sustainable in the long term and develop policies that integrate immigrants positively.

Contact in the secretariat: Halvor Lervik, tel. 2121.

◆ **Closure of the fourth part of the 2004 Ordinary Session**

---

# Practical information

## 1. Meetings of committees and political groups

The list of meetings held by the committees and the other organs of the Assembly (Bureau, political groups, etc.) appears in the notice paper (*bulletin*) published before each sitting.

Unless a committee decides otherwise, committee meetings are not public.

Monday and Wednesday mornings are reserved for political group meetings.

## 2. Languages

The official languages of the Assembly are English and French. German, Italian and Russian are working languages. Speeches made in plenary session in any of these five languages are interpreted simultaneously into the other official and working languages. Members may, however, speak in languages other than English, French, German, Italian and Russian, provided that their delegation arranges for interpretation into one of the official or working languages. During sittings this is generally the case for Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese and Greek.

## 3. Assembly documents

The following documents are available in French and English at the document counter (on the first floor, to the right of the top of the main staircase, near lift No. IV).

### Official documents

The main official documents are:

**Reports:** All items on the agenda are debated on the basis of a report by one of the Assembly's committees (with the exception of current affairs debates, elections, appointments, statements by guest speakers and communications from and questions to the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe).

Committee reports comprise one or more draft texts for adoption (recommendations, opinions, resolutions) and an explanatory memorandum prepared by the rapporteur. Only draft texts can be amended and adopted by the Assembly.

**Amendments:** Amendments to draft texts must be tabled in keeping with the relevant rules of procedure, particularly Rule 34 (see section 4 below). They are distributed at the document counter. They must be signed by at least five Representatives or Substitutes, unless they are being submitted on behalf of a committee seized for report or opinion.

**Order of business:** For each part-session the Bureau prepares a draft order of business listing the sittings at which the agenda items will be examined. **The draft order of business** is made available to members of the Assembly two weeks before the opening of the part-session. The Assembly is required to adopt the draft order of business (Rule 25.7 of the Rules of Procedure). A member may

propose an amendment to the draft order of business drawn up by the Bureau. The adoption of such a motion requires a majority of the votes cast (Rule 25.8). Once adopted, the order of business can be altered only by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Once it has been approved by the Assembly at the first sitting of the part-session, the order of business is published (Rule 25) and made available to the members at the document counter.

**Minutes of proceedings:** Generally, after each sitting of the Assembly, the **minutes of proceedings** are produced. They list the Assembly's decisions and record speakers' names, the results of votes on texts and amendments, and points of order raised. At the start of the sitting the President submits the minutes of proceedings of earlier sittings to the Assembly for approval. If the minutes of proceedings are objected to, their approval may be postponed to the following sitting, at which the President may put to the Assembly any necessary modification (see Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure).

**Report of debates:** A **provisional report of debates** is issued after each sitting. The French version of the provisional report (pink pages) contains the full text of all speeches made in French and a summary in French of speeches made in other languages. The English version (yellow pages) contains the full text of speeches in English and summaries in English of speeches in other languages. Speeches in German or Italian are also reported verbatim in a separate publication (green pages). Speakers may make corrections to the provisional report of debates within 24 hours of publication.

Representatives and Substitutes who were entered on the list of speakers and present in the Chamber but were unable to speak because of lack of time may hand in their typewritten texts for inclusion in the report of debates. They should do so within 24 hours of the end of the debate concerned at the Table Office (Room 1083).

**Adopted texts:** The texts adopted by the Assembly are also published after each sitting, separately in English (yellow pages) and French (pink pages).

The texts adopted by the Assembly are:

- Recommendations (proposals addressed by the Assembly to the Committee of Ministers, for implementation by that Committee or the governments);
- Opinions (addressed to the Committee of Ministers);
- Resolutions (embodying a decision by the Assembly on a question of substance which it is empowered to put into effect, a point of view for which it alone is responsible, or a question of form, transmission, execution or procedure);

The other official documents (Rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure) are:

- reports, communications, requests for an opinion or further consideration transmitted by the Committee of Ministers;
- questions addressed to the Committee of Ministers;
- communications from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- reports of international organisations;
- written declarations.



## Other documents

Before each sitting a **notice paper** is produced, setting out the orders of the day. It also contains other information relevant to the proceedings, including:

- time limits for tabling amendments;
- time limits for lists of speakers;
- procedural notices, for example concerning elections;
- information about meetings of committees and other Assembly bodies;
- information about changes in the membership of committees.

For each part-session the following lists are published:

- List of Representatives
- List of Substitutes
- List of national delegations
- List of the Secretariat officials, giving office locations and contact telephone numbers for the part-session.

The Rules of Procedure of the Assembly (2002 edition) and a collection of modifications made since then are available in bilingual (English/French) versions.

## **4. Tabling amendments**

Members who wish to table amendments or sub-amendments to the draft texts before the Assembly should submit them to the Table Office (Room 1083). Amendments and sub-amendments must be **signed by at least five Representatives or Substitutes**, unless they have been submitted on behalf of the committee submitting the report or an opinion.

Under the provisions on the organisation of debates (page 88 and ff. of the Rules of Procedure), the **time limits for tabling amendments** are the following (where appropriate the Bureau may decide to change these limits):

- for debates on the afternoon of Monday 4 October: Monday 4 October at 12 noon;
- for debates on Tuesday 5 October: Monday 4 October at 4 p.m.;
- for all other debates (except urgent debates): 24 hours before the opening of the sitting at which the debate is to begin.

Sub-amendments must be tabled at least two hours before the opening of the sitting at which the debate is to begin.

The procedure for tabling, examining and voting on amendments and sub-amendments is set out in Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure.

## **5. Motions for resolutions and recommendations**

Motions for resolutions and recommendations must be signed by ten or more Representatives or Substitutes from at least five national delegations (Rule 23.2). The President decides which motions are admissible.

Any motion considered admissible is printed and distributed as soon as possible. The Bureau then decides whether it should be referred to one or more committees, or forwarded to one or more committees for information, or that no further action should be taken. The Bureau's decision must then be ratified by the Assembly or the Standing Committee.

A document may be referred to only one committee for report but to any other committee for opinion (Rule 24.2). The opinion of the latter concerns the report of the former committee. The report concerned must therefore be made available to the committee whose opinion has been sought in good time for it to prepare its opinion. Committee opinions may be presented orally or in writing. An opinion presented in writing must contain a chapter at the beginning entitled "Conclusions of the committee" and an explanatory memorandum by the rapporteur (Rule 49.3 of the Rules of Procedure).

## **6. Written declarations**

Written declarations may be tabled provided that they:

- do not exceed 200 words;
- are on subjects within the competence of the Council of Europe;
- are signed by at least twenty Representatives or Substitutes belonging to four national delegations and two political groups.

They are neither referred to a committee nor debated in the Assembly (Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure).

Any representative or Substitute may add his signature to such a declaration, in which case the declaration will be distributed again two weeks after the end of the part-session, with the names of all the members who signed it.

A written declaration which has not received any new signatures before the opening of the following part-session is closed to further signature.

## **7. Opinions of the Assembly (to the Committee of Ministers)**

According to the Statute of the Council of Europe, or to other texts of a statutory character, the Committee of Ministers seeks the Assembly's opinion on such matters as the accession of new member states, draft conventions or the Council of Europe's budget. These requests for opinions are debated in the Assembly, following which the Assembly votes on the opinion to be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers (Rule 57).

## **8. Changes in the membership of national delegations or committees**

Members of the Assembly are appointed for the whole Ordinary Session. Following parliamentary elections, the national parliament concerned or other competent authority shall make appointments to the Assembly within six months of the elections (Rule 10.2 and 3).

Should any seat on a national delegation fall vacant in the course of a session as a result of death or resignation, the president of the national parliament concerned, or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, presents the credentials of the member who is to fill the vacant seat to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, who submits them to the Assembly or the Standing Committee for ratification at the first sitting or meeting following their receipt (Rule 6.4).

The chairperson of a national delegation informs the President of the Assembly of any proposed change(s) in committee membership concerning that delegation's members. The President of the Assembly submits the proposed change(s) to the Assembly, the Standing Committee or, failing that, the Bureau for ratification (Rule 43.6).

## **9. Requests for debates under urgent procedure or current affairs debates**

At the request of the Committee of Ministers, of the committee concerned, or of twenty or more Representatives or Substitutes, a debate may be held on an item which has not been placed on the Assembly's agenda. Requests for debates under urgent procedure must be addressed to the President of the Assembly. The President submits them to the Bureau, which makes a proposal to the Assembly. The adoption of urgent procedure requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast (Rule 50).

At least twenty members, or one political group or national delegation may request a current affairs debate (Rule 52) on a subject which is not on the Assembly's agenda. The request must be made to the President of the Assembly at least a week before the start of the part-session. The Bureau decides whether or not to grant the request, subject to approval by the Assembly. A current affairs debate may not exceed one and a half hours. The debate shall be opened by one of the members who requested it, chosen by the Bureau. The first speaker has ten minutes speaking time, other speakers five. A current affairs debate does not give rise to a vote, though the Bureau of the Assembly may subsequently propose that the subject be referred to the appropriate committee for report.

## **10. Electronic voting, notification of Substitutes, list of speakers, and quorum**

All votes in the Assembly, except elections, take place by electronic voting.

### **Voting cards**

Voting cards issued to all members are simultaneously used for identification and voting.

Distribution of voting cards is ensured by the Protocol Service of the Council of Europe. In principle, this distribution is organised via secretaries of each national delegation. Members who do not have their card (in case a card has been lost or forgotten, or when the Parliamentary Assembly database does not contain the member's photo) should present themselves at the Protocol desk at the main entrance of the Palais de l'Europe in order to receive their card. Protocol staff, before delivering a new card, will invite the member to present his or her identification document. If a third and consecutive card is issued to the same member during the same calendar year for whatever reason, loss or otherwise, the national delegation will be required to pay the cost (6 euros per card).

Voting cards as distributed by the Protocol Service do not give an automatic right to vote. In order to enjoy such a right, the member's card has to be validated. This operation will be carried out by the Assembly Secretariat.

### **Notification of Substitutes**

In principle all Representatives at the opening of the first sitting (on Monday, at 3.00 p.m.) have their cards validated, but not Substitutes unless the Secretariat of the Assembly is properly informed about substitutions. Therefore secretaries of national delegations have the duty to inform the Secretariat of the Assembly about all cases of substitution. If this is not done, Substitutes attending the sitting do not have speaking and voting rights.

Notice of substitutions has to be given before the opening of the sitting concerned (if possible by the previous day and at the latest before 8.30 a.m. for a morning sitting and before 1.00 p.m. for

an afternoon sitting). This notification, including the names of Substitutes, the names of Representatives to be substituted and the length of substitution, must be given in writing for each sitting to the Secretariat of the Assembly (Mrs Jocelyne Gibert, Room 1076, fax during session weeks 27 27, fax outside session weeks 37 95).

If the Substitute is replacing the Representative for one or more consecutive sittings, the substitution for each sitting must be notified. Substitutions are never carried automatically over to the following sitting.

When the correct notification has been given, Substitutes will have their voting cards validated. At the same time, cards of Representatives who are to be replaced by Substitutes will become invalid, preventing them from speaking in the debate and voting, including in elections.

### **Register of attendance**

Members shall continue to sign the register of attendance before entering the Chamber for a sitting (Rules 11.2 and 39.1). A duly designated Substitute will find his or her name in the register next to the name of the Representative for whom he or she is substituting. If, in the register of attendance, no name is found next to the Representative's name, it means that no substitution was notified for the Representative for that particular sitting and therefore the Representative is authorised to speak in the debate and vote.

All members of the Assembly – Representatives and Substitutes as well as Observers – have access to the Chamber at any time of the sitting, regardless of their speaking and voting rights. Therefore, all Members, even those who are not authorised to speak in the debate or vote, are invited to sign the register of attendance if they attend the sitting.

### **Speakers' register**

Members who wish to speak in a debate must enter their names on the list of speakers. They may do this by post in advance of the part-session, or in person during the part-session at the Table Office (Room 1083). The list is closed one hour before the scheduled end of the previous sitting, except in the case of the first sitting of a part-session when the deadline is two hours before the start of the sitting. It should be noted that in any one part-session members may enter their names on the list for a maximum of **five debates** but may take the floor **not more than three times** (this limit does not apply to members appointed as political group spokespersons or as rapporteurs). A substitute whose name has not been notified to the secretariat before a sitting cannot participate in the debate.

The order of speakers on the list for each debate is determined according to criteria set by the Bureau and can be found on pages 94 to 96 of the Rules of Procedure.

**Speaking time** is limited to a maximum of 8 minutes for committee rapporteurs and 3 minutes for rapporteurs for opinion. Other speakers on the list normally have a maximum of 5 minutes. At the start of each sitting the President announces the speaking arrangements.

Only authorised members – i.e. Representatives or their duly appointed Substitutes – may speak in debates or submit questions for oral reply to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers or to guest speakers. The list of speakers is verified accordingly.

## **Electronic voting**

While they are sitting in the Chamber, members are invited to keep their voting cards inserted in the voting terminals. However, when they leave, they should take their cards with them.

Voting cards should be inserted correctly into the terminals (the photo side of the member's card is facing the President's table; then the card is pushed down until a "click" is heard). A card correctly inserted is signalled by its number being displayed on a small screen in the voting terminal. Any malfunctioning or error message displayed on the voting terminal screen should be immediately reported to the Secretariat present in the Chamber.

The opening of a vote by the President is confirmed by a small green light on the voting terminal.

After the opening of a vote, members should vote by putting their hands into the small booth of the voting terminal and by pressing one of the three voting buttons (stickers which are on the top of voting terminals are put there only for information in order to indicate the positions of the "for", "abstention" and "against" buttons). The chosen vote is confirmed by a coloured light on the terminal: green ("for"), white ("abstention") or red ("against").

Rule 39.8 indicates that a member cannot modify his or her vote after the voting is closed.

## **Quorum**

The Assembly may deliberate, decide the orders of the day, approve the minutes of proceedings, decide upon procedural motions, and agree to adjourn, whatever the number of Representatives present.

All votes other than votes by roll-call shall be valid whatever the number of members voting, unless, before the voting has begun, the President has been requested to ascertain whether there is a quorum. At least one sixth of the Representatives authorised to vote, belonging to at least five national delegations, must vote in favour of the request. To ascertain whether there is a quorum, the President invites Representatives to mark their presence in the Chamber using the electronic voting system.

The quorum is one third of the number of Representatives of the Assembly authorised to vote (Rule 41.3).

A vote by roll-call shall not be valid unless one third of the Representatives authorised to vote took part. The President may decide to ascertain whether there is a quorum before proceeding to a vote by roll-call.

In the absence of a quorum, the vote shall be postponed until the next sitting or, on a motion from the Chair, until a subsequent sitting.

## **Majorities required**

A majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required for the adoption of a draft recommendation or a draft opinion to the Committee of Ministers, for the adoption of urgent procedure, for an alteration to the order of business, for the setting up of a committee and for the fixing of the date for the opening or resumption of Ordinary Sessions. For the adoption of a draft resolution and for any other decision, a majority of the votes cast is required, in the case of a tie the question being rejected.

**Mobile phones**

Members are reminded that mobile phones must be switched off at all times in the Chamber and during committee meetings.

# Directory

## Secretariat of the Assembly

Secretary General of the Assembly  
Bruno Haller, office 6213, tel. 2091, [bruno.haller@coe.int](mailto:bruno.haller@coe.int)

*Executive Assistant to the Secretary General of the Assembly*  
*Petr Sich, office 6174, tel. 2127, [petr.sich@coe.int](mailto:petr.sich@coe.int)*

*Secretary to the Secretary General of the Assembly*  
*Janice Ludwig, office 6213, tel. 2092/2355, [janice.ludwig@coe.int](mailto:janice.ludwig@coe.int)*

Director General  
Mateo Sorinas, office 6217, tel. 2115, [mateo.sorinas@coe.int](mailto:mateo.sorinas@coe.int)

Director, General Services  
Wojciech Sawicki, office 6201, tel. 3630, [wojciech.sawicki@coe.int](mailto:wojciech.sawicki@coe.int)

Director, Interparliamentary and Institutional Relations  
Jan Kleijssen, office 6167, tel. 2116, [jan.kleijssen@coe.int](mailto:jan.kleijssen@coe.int)

## Private Office of the President

Head of the Private Office  
Simon Newman, office 1064, tel. 2618, [simon.newman@coe.int](mailto:simon.newman@coe.int)

Deputy Head of the Private Office  
Markus Adelsbach, office 1079, tel. 4827, [markus.adelsbach@coe.int](mailto:markus.adelsbach@coe.int)

Secretariat of the President and of the Head of Private Office  
Monique Fruhinsholz, office 1070, tel. 2094, [monique.fruhinsholz@coe.int](mailto:monique.fruhinsholz@coe.int)  
Joanne de León, office 1070, tel. 3088, [joanne.deleon@coe.int](mailto:joanne.deleon@coe.int)

## Table Office

(speakers' lists, questions and amendments)

Head of the Table Office  
Horst Schade, office 6152, tel. 2075, [horst.schade@coe.int](mailto:horst.schade@coe.int)

Paul Evans, office 1083, tel. 4283  
Robert Bertrand, office 1083, tel. 4283

Notification of substitutes  
Jocelyne Gibert, office 1076, tel. 3273

## Communication Unit of the Assembly

Head of Unit  
Micaela Catalano, office 6187, tel. 2595, [micaela.catalano@coe.int](mailto:micaela.catalano@coe.int)

Francesc Ferrer, office 6.189, tel. 3250, [francesc.ferrer@coe.int](mailto:francesc.ferrer@coe.int)  
Angus Macdonald, office 6.166, tel. 3439, [angus.macdonald@coe.int](mailto:angus.macdonald@coe.int)

Secretariat  
Catherine Becarmin, office 6170, tel. 3193, [catherine.becarmin@coe.int](mailto:catherine.becarmin@coe.int)

## Secretaries of political groups

Socialist Group:  
Marlène Albanese, office 5099/5101, tel. 2675, [marlene.albanese@coe.int](mailto:marlene.albanese@coe.int)

Group of the European People's Party:  
Denise O'Hara, office 5141/5143, tel. 2676, [denise.ohara@coe.int](mailto:denise.ohara@coe.int)

Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' Group:  
Peter Kallenberger, office 5081, tel. 2682, [peter.kallenberger@coe.int](mailto:peter.kallenberger@coe.int)

European Democratic Group:  
Daniela Nord, office 5117, tel. 2677, [daniela.nord@coe.int](mailto:daniela.nord@coe.int)

Group of the Unified European Left:  
Hélène de Assis, office 5158/60, tel. 3684, [helena.deassis@coe.int](mailto:helena.deassis@coe.int)

## Secretary General

Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Terry Davis, office 3003, tel. 2050, [terry.davis@coe.int](mailto:terry.davis@coe.int)

Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Maud De Boer-Buquicchio, office 3011, tel. 2382,  
[maud.deboer-buquicchio@coe.int](mailto:maud.deboer-buquicchio@coe.int)

Spokesperson  
Dmitri Marchenkov, office 3012a, tel. 3844, [dmitri.marchenkov@coe.int](mailto:dmitri.marchenkov@coe.int)

## Directorate of Communication and Research

Director *a.i.*  
Jean-Philippe Bozouls, office 0015D, tel. 2007, [jean-philippe.bozouls@coe.int](mailto:jean-philippe.bozouls@coe.int)

Audiovisual Service, tel. 3500.

## Protocol

Director of Protocol  
Muammer Topaloğlu, office 0149, tel. 2137, [muammer.topaloglu@coe.int](mailto:muammer.topaloglu@coe.int)

## Services

### Badges

Wearing badges is compulsory for admittance to the Chamber. Voting cards are used as ID badges. Contact the Protocol desk in the entrance hall.

### Bars and restaurants

Parliamentarians' Bar: 1st floor, opposite the Chamber, open from 8.30 a.m. to the end of the sitting. Restaurant Bleu: ground floor, for official meals (tel. 3704 for reservations). Palais cafeteria: ground floor, open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Palais self-service: ground floor, lunch from 12 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Bank

Société Générale, in the entrance hall, open from 8.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., tel. 7060. A cash dispenser is located opposite the philatelic counter off the entrance hall.

### Bus

Free shuttle service departing from Allée Spach, outside the Press Centre, to the railway station via downtown (and vice versa). Badges must be shown. Time schedules are available at the reception desk.

### Bookshop

Librairie Klébér: In the entrance hall, open from 9.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 1.30 p.m. to 5.45 p.m., tel. 3712.

### Philatelic agency

Council of Europe stamps and, since 1949, philatelic envelopes commemorating every session of the Parliamentary Assembly, tel. 03 88 35 08 88.

### Post office

La Poste: in the entrance hall, open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., tel. 3463.

### Medical centre

Entrance hall, open from 8.30 a.m. to the end of the sitting, tel. 2442.

### Newsagent

In the entrance hall, open from 7.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m., tel. 3549.

### City of Strasbourg information desk

The City of Strasbourg is represented at the reception desk in the entrance hall, providing lists of hotels, restaurants and local events, flight/train times etc, tel. 3838. For accommodation or transport, contact Euraccueil on 03 88 52 28 38.

### Travel agent

Protravel: Palais, ground floor, near the Restaurant. Open from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 1.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., tel. 3714.