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Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

Participation of members in Parliamentary Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings

Information memorandum¹

prepared by the Secretariat of the committee

1. Introduction

1. In Resolution 1583 (2007) on “Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings”, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted measures aimed at promoting improved participation by Assembly members in its activities and those of its committees. Paragraph 7 of the resolution provides for follow-up to the measures taken:

“7. *The Assembly:*

7.1. invites its Secretary General to continue observing closely the level of participation of members of national parliamentary delegations at plenary sessions, including during votes, and in the general committees of the Assembly, and to inform the Bureau of the Assembly and the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities regularly thereon;

7.2. invites the President of the Assembly to examine, with the speakers and political groups of the parliaments concerned, the possible consequences if, during one year following the adoption of this resolution, the average level of participation of national delegations in Assembly sittings, as shown by the signatures in the register of attendance, falls below 50% of their nominal strength;

7.3. resolves to review the Assembly’s committee structure, including the possible merger of committees, if, during the same period, there is no improvement in the level of participation in committees.”

2. The purpose of this memorandum is therefore to allow the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, in compliance with paragraph 7.1 of Resolution 1583, to consider relevant statistics on the following points:

- participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in plenary sessions,
- participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in votes during plenary sessions,

¹ Approved by the committee at its meeting on 30 January 2014.

- participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in the Assembly's general committees.

3. The memorandum also contains an initial analysis of these statistics, which may provide material for the discussion by the committee and the Bureau of the Assembly on the conclusions to be drawn.

4. Moreover, in paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583, the President of the Assembly is invited "to examine, with the speakers and political groups of the parliaments concerned, the possible consequences if... the average level of participation of national delegations in Assembly sittings... falls below 50% of their nominal strength".

5. Lastly, it should be recalled that, in 2011, the Assembly undertook a reform of its organisational structure and mode of operation, the aims of which included, in particular, strengthening its efficiency, as well as its political visibility and relevance, and improving the commitment and participation of its members. The reform led to several measures, including overhauling the structure of the committees, reduced from ten to eight, and their terms of reference, reorganising plenary sittings, with trimming of the agenda, improving the planning and grouping of committee meetings outside part-sessions.

2. Statistics

2.1. Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in plenary sessions

6. Statistics on the level of participation of national delegations for the four 2013 part-sessions (see Appendix I) show that the overall average level of participation of the members of the 47 delegations was 57.84%, up slightly from the previous year (56.45% in 2012, 57.99% in 2011, 58.76% in 2010, 58.23% in 2009, 56.92% in 2008, 52.13% in 2007 and 56.24% in 2006). Participation rates were over 55% for all the part-sessions, with the highest level at the January part-session (61.44%).

7. It shall be again pointed out that these "participation" rates are based on the signatures in the register of attendance and they do not reflect the actual presence of parliamentarians in the Assembly chamber or their actual participation in the debates. Members do not necessarily remain throughout the sitting for which they have registered, and this is not dependent on whether they are called on to speak.

8. A survey of the level of participation of the national delegations in the 2013 Assembly session shows large disparities between delegations, but there is no correlation between the level of participation and the size of the delegation. Some delegations' participation rates are consistently very high and seven have an average participation rate of more than 80% (Andorra with 90.28%, Switzerland with 88.43%, Luxembourg with 87.04%, Sweden with 85.65%, Norway with 83.33%, Estonia with 81.48%, and Finland with 80.56%). Eight delegations were in this situation last year (seven in 2011). However, 11 of the 47 delegations' average participation rates are less than 50%; it represents a clear improvement, reflecting the delegations' efforts to increase their presence during part-sessions (the figure was 17 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 13 in 2010, 17 in 2009 and in 2008).

9. The 11 delegations affected by the measure provided for in paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583, with an average participation rate of less than 50%, are Albania (13.89%, and 34.03% last year), Italy (32.10%), Germany (37.50%, and 43.67% last year), Bulgaria (38.89%), Malta (40.74%, and 30.56% in 2012), Belgium (41.27%, and 42.06% in 2012), Denmark (43.89%, and 37.78% in 2012), Bosnia and Herzegovina (46.67%, with steadily improved rates compared to previous years: 35% in 2012 and 26.11% in 2011), the Czech Republic (47.22%), Portugal (47.22%, and 42.46% in 2012) and Hungary (48.81%).

10. Looking at the last five years, it is worth noting that some delegations have a consistently high level of participation (Switzerland, Sweden, Luxembourg, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Liechtenstein, Armenia, Turkey, Lithuania, Latvia), while others have a low or very low level of participation over the long term (Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Portugal). It is also a matter of concern that the participation level of some large delegations (Germany and Italy) is also below the expected 50%. Germany's average participation level between 2008 and 2013 was 44.71%² and Italy's

² 37.50% in 2013, 43.67% in 2012, 44.91% in 2011, 50.31% in 2010, 43.89% in 2009 and 47.99% in 2008.

was 44.16%³, while the other three large delegations with 36 members consistently achieve regular higher participation levels over the same period.

11. Moreover, some of the 17 delegations which had a participation rate less than 50% last year made efforts to curb the trend: Romania (from 22.78% in 2012 to 60% in 2013), Georgia (from 26.11% to 53.33%), Serbia (from 36.51% to 70.24%), Slovenia (from 37.96% to 53.70%), Greece (from 41.67% to 78.17%), San Marino (from 43.06% to 75%), “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (from 16.67% in 2011, 43.52% in 2012 and 59.26% in 2013), Croatia (44,44% in 2012 and 55.56% in 2013), the Russian Federation (48.77% in 2012 and 58.02% in 2013).

2.2. *Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in voting at plenary sessions*

12. There is still a very significant difference between the number of members signing the register of attendance and the number who actually take part in the votes at the sitting for which they have registered. In 2013, the participation rate of Assembly members in votes in plenary sittings was 36.78%, showing a steady increase in recent years (it was 30.38% in 2012, 26.62% in 2011, 23.89% in 2010, 28.70% in 2009, 29.37% in 2008, 27.24% in 2007 and 21.27% in 2006). While this steady increase in the participation of national delegations in voting in the Chamber is to be welcomed, one cannot hide the fact that over six in ten signatories do not take part in votes during the sittings for which they have registered.

13. Only ten delegations out of 47 had a participation rate of over 50% in votes (the figure was seven in 2012, four in 2011 and 2010, seven in 2009 and six in 2008): placed on top were three of the same four delegations in 2011 and 2010, i.e. Sweden (which, with six seats, achieved the best figure with 91.43%), Norway (five seats and 80.65%), Switzerland (six seats and 76.05%), now joined by Andorra (two seats and 81.43%). The fact that only six delegations' participation rates in votes were less than 25%⁴ (compared to 22 in 2013, 25 in 2011, 27 in 2010, 24 in 2009 and 23 in 2008) is a very encouraging development, testifying to the efforts made by delegations whose participation rates in votes have generally been low to curb the trend.

14. Analysis of the statistics since 2008 shows that some delegations' participation in voting has substantially improved (for instance, Andorra's participation rose from 29.36% in 2011 to 81.43% in 2013, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 7.72% to 26.21%, Cyprus from 22.16% to 46,03%, Finland from 15.87% to 58.41%, Georgia from 9.78% in 2010 to 43.50% in 2013, Greece whose rates between 2009 and 2011 were below 12% reached a 37.25% rate in 2013, Hungary from 19.72% in 2011 to 40.75% in 2013, Latvia from 11.96% in 2010 to 55.45% in 2013, Montenegro from 3.94% in 2010 to more than 28% in 2012 and 2013, Romania from 6.63% in 2010 and 8.68% in 2011 to 31.57% in 2013, Serbia from 12.54% in 2010 to 44.53% in 2013, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” from 9.38% in 2011 to 38.16% in 2013, Ukraine from 15.48% in 2010 to 40.42% in 2013), while a great number of other delegations have made significant efforts.

15. Delegations which had the lowest participation rate in votes last year also made genuine efforts to improve significantly their participation rates in the Assembly votes (with the exception of Albania – which did not manage to reverse the declining trend of its participation since 2010 and whose participation in voting has been in steady decline for several years now – Ireland and Italy).

16. It is worth noting that there is no absolute correlation between the participation rate of national delegations as recorded in the register of signatures and the participation rate of the members of the same delegations in votes.⁵ It would be appropriate therefore to discuss matters more thoroughly with the delegations to establish why their members attend sessions but do not vote on the texts being debated.

³ 32.10% in 2013, 50.31% in 2012, 36.27% in 2011, 56.94% in 2010, 60.01% in 2009 and 29.32% in 2008.

⁴ Albania, Ireland, Malta, Italy, Germany and Portugal (1.64%, 18.81%, 19.16%, 19.89%, 21% and 21.90% respectively).

⁵ For example, the Armenian delegation's participation rate in the 2013 session was 76.39%, and its participation rate in voting was 30.14% only. The Greek delegation's participation rate was 78.17%, but its members took part in votes much less (a rate of 37.25%).

17. As to individual voting, 58 members of the Assembly took part, on average, in more than 50% of the votes during the 2013 session⁶ (compared to 44 in 2012, 33 in 2011, 24 in 2010, 37 in 2009 and 31 in 2008), which is again particularly encouraging.

18. During the 2013 session, the Assembly adopted 84 texts.⁷ 24 of the 64 texts adopted at plenary sessions were voted on by over 100 members on their final adoption (38%). This is very encouraging compared to previous statistics (24% in 2012, 15% in 2011, 14% in 2010, 21% in 2009 and 13% in 2008), the record being the debate on “the honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan” (225 votes cast) – the best figure for a text adopted since 2006.⁸ The next most successful were the texts on “the request for the opening of a monitoring procedure in respect of Hungary” (211 votes cast) and on “the post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey” (183 votes cast).

19. The list of texts adopted by the Assembly in plenary (Appendix V) shows – more than in past years – how much Assembly members’ interest clearly focused on topical political issues (the honouring of obligations and commitments by member States; the humanitarian situation in Georgia/Russia conflict areas; the situation in the Middle-East, in Syria, or in Kosovo*) or controversial subjects (violence against religious communities; information security; freedom of expression and of the media; situation of migrants; children’s rights). Among the five texts which have obtained the highest number of votes in 2013, four were based on reports by the Committee on the honouring of obligations and commitments by member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee).

20. However, many reports debated do not seem to achieve the expected level of interest among Assembly members. For instance, almost one in two texts were adopted with the votes of less than a quarter of Assembly members (30 of 64 texts – i.e. 47% – were adopted with less than 80 votes). This figure shows a clear improvement although remaining a cause for concern with regard to the Assembly political visibility and the effectiveness of its message.⁹

2.3. *Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in meetings of general Assembly committees*

21. Resolution 1583 (2007) invites the Secretary General of the Assembly to observe the level of participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in the Assembly’s general committees.

22. Moreover, Rule 43.10 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure states that “*If (...) in the course of a parliamentary year*, the average level of participation of a national delegation in the meetings of a committee is below 33%, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly shall inform the President of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs and the chairperson of the national delegation concerned. The President of the Assembly shall bring this to the attention of the speaker of the national parliament concerned and the Bureau of the Assembly.*”

[* If during the reference year, parliamentary elections are held, the national delegation concerned may request that the reference time be prolonged by the Bureau up to a maximum of two years.]

23. The aim therefore was to observe, firstly, the average level of participation of each delegation in all the committees, taken as a whole, and, secondly, the average level of participation of each delegation in each separate committee. It goes without saying that while it is easy to analyse the statistics on delegations’ participation in all the committees taken together, the task of narrowing down

⁶ Incidentally, it should be noted that Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) is top of the list of “best voters” for the fifth consecutive year (he took part in 98.83% of the votes in plenary in 2013, 100% in 2012 and 2011, 99.4% in 2010 and 99.59% in 2009).

⁷ 64 of these were adopted at Assembly part-sessions and 20 at Standing Committee meetings. The decrease of the number of adopted texts is due to the reduction in the number of reports presented to the Assembly, following the 2011 Assembly reform. In 2012, the Assembly adopted 74 texts (58 of which at plenary sessions); in 2011, 115 texts (86 of which at plenary sessions); in 2010, 143 texts (98 of which at plenary sessions); in 2009, 109 texts (85 at part-sessions) and, in 2008, 83 texts (69 at part-sessions).

⁸ The previous “record” was held by the 2012 debate on “the honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation” (209 votes cast). In 2011, the debate on the “Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo” received the greatest number of votes (191 votes cast).

⁹ In 2012, 32 of 58 texts (55%) were adopted with less than 80 votes – 40 of 74 texts (54%) in 2011. In 2013, 13 texts were adopted by less than 50 votes (20%) during plenary sessions (27% in 2012, 19% in 2011, and 32% in 2010).

the analysis to reveal the details of each delegation's participation in the meetings of each committee is complex.

24. As with the figures on participation in Assembly sessions, these statistics on participation in committee meetings should be viewed in the light of the fact that they only reflect the number of members who signed the register at the beginning of meetings, not their actual presence during them.

2.3.1. Participation levels in committee meetings by delegation

25. In 2013, the eight Assembly committees held a total of 66 meetings.¹⁰ The overall number of meetings increased slightly – mainly the number of meetings in places other than Paris or Strasbourg – despite budget cuts.

26. The overall level of participation of Assembly members in the Assembly's eight committees in 2013 was 53.22%, showing that the improvement achieved last year still remained (56.47% in 2012, 46.73% in 2011, 46.13% in 2010, 47.30% in 2009 and 47.98% in 2008).

27. With more specific regard to the participation of national delegations in the meetings of the six committees where they are represented, the overall participation stabilised at a positive level (54.14%), after having reached 56% in 2012, offering grounds for hope that the sharp decline seen in 2011 (45.82%) and 2010 (44.71%) has been reversed (see Appendix III).

28. 9 delegations have average rates of participation in all committee meetings below 33% (they were 8 in 2012; it is encouraging compared to 14 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 9 in 2009 and 12 in 2008); in ascending order, they were:

- Albania, with a rate of 10%;
- Bulgaria and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, with a rate of 20% or less;
- Liechtenstein, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Portugal, San Marino and Germany, with a rate of less than 33%.

29. 27 of the 47 delegations achieved average participation rates of 50% or more (29 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 25 in 2009 and 20 in 2008). Nine delegations – Finland, Armenia, United Kingdom, Spain, Georgia, Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Turkey – had averages of over 70% (eleven delegations achieved the same good result last year but only two in 2011).

30. The national delegations' levels of participation in committee meetings vary greatly;¹¹ however, on the whole delegations made real efforts to ensure a better participation in the activities of committees.

31. In 2013, half of the committee meetings were held in Strasbourg (32 meetings out of 66). As in previous years, participation levels were better for meetings in Strasbourg (66%) than for meetings in Paris (42.22%) or elsewhere (39.41%). However, this result does need to be put in perspective, as there are certain special arrangements that apply to meetings in Strasbourg:

- each committee actually holds several meetings during session weeks, but they are counted as a single meeting and all the signatures are put together;
- the same member may go in turn to several committee meetings being held at the same time.

¹⁰ They held 63 meetings in 2012.

¹¹ In 2013, the Bulgarian delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the Slovak delegation in any of the meetings of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Albanian delegation in any of the meetings of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, the delegations of Denmark and the Republic of Moldova in any of the meetings of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, the delegations of Liechtenstein and Slovenia in any of the meetings of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.

32. The number of meetings held in Paris or in places other than Paris or Strasbourg has remained more or less unchanged, although the number of meetings held outside France clearly increased (13 meetings in 2013, 7 in 2012).

33. However, some delegations only took part in meetings held during the part-sessions in Strasbourg (Albania, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”), while several other delegations clearly gave precedence to meetings in Strasbourg, attending certain committee meetings in Paris or elsewhere more occasionally (Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, the Slovak Republic).

34. There are objective reasons for this situation. It is obvious that members belonging to small delegations cannot by themselves take on the heavy workload that participation in the work of all the committees would involve, and this is what accounts for some of the delegations’ low participation rates. Moreover, several delegations are faced with budgetary problems which rule out long or over-frequent journeys.

2.3.2. Overall participation levels in meetings by committee¹²

35. The expected effects of the 2011 reform of the Assembly – in particular by reducing the number of committees – seem to be marking time. Although the measures which have been implemented in 2012 resulted then in a significant increase of members’ participation in committee meetings, the incidence is least in 2013 (see Appendix VI).

36. As to the level of participation by committee, six committees out of eight recorded an overall figure of over 50% (compared to seven committees out of eight in 2012). The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (62.96%) and the Monitoring Committee (60,69%) had both the highest participation rates, over 60%.

Next came the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (55.82%), the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (52.53%), the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (52.23%), the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (51.04%). The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs had the lowest participation rate – below 50% (48.96% and 37.06% respectively).

3. Possible explanations

37. Every year for the last seven years, the committee has examined the statistics on participation by members in the work of the Assembly and its committees, and looked for factors that might explain certain aspects, particularly when it was preparing the report on “Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings” in 2007 (see explanatory memorandum, Doc. 11295; paras. 31 to 41) and when it considered the information memoranda presented in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.¹³ As it has already pointed out, some caution is required when interpreting raw statistics, which take no account in themselves of the valid reasons explaining parliamentarians’ absence.

38. The main explanation given by national delegations was that members held a dual mandate and were sometimes required to stay in their national parliaments, or were called back for important debates. This point was emphasised most by the delegations of member States in which the government held only a narrow majority and was trying to introduce major constitutional or legislative reforms.

¹² The statistics provided concern the participation of committee members in meetings of their committees in the strict sense and do not take account of conferences and seminars held by those committees, which sometimes nevertheless are attended by very large numbers of participants.

¹³ See documents AS/Pro (2008) 13, AS/Pro (2009) 21, AS/Pro (2010) 21, AS/Pro (2012) 02 and AS/Pro (2013)02.

39. Delegations also pointed to budget cuts in their national parliaments, which accounted in particular for the absence of certain delegations for meetings held away from Strasbourg outside the sessions. This had been particularly true given the big impact of the ongoing global financial and economic crisis lasting since 2008 on the budget of parliaments in many member States. Some delegations admitted that they had decided to stop sending substitutes to sit in the Assembly or on committees.

40. Moreover, as already mentioned, some small delegations regularly refer to the fact that their members cannot ensure regular participation in all the meetings of all the committees.

41. Mention was also made of the fact that, in election years, it was impossible for members to take part in Assembly activities when they were required to stay in their constituencies for the election campaign. Six of the 11 delegations whose average participation rate in the Assembly part-sessions was less than 50% in 2013 were in an election year (Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Malta). This is an entirely valid explanation, which may account for the depleted ranks of these delegations during the part-session preceding or following those national elections (pending the appointment of a new delegation), but it does need to be put in perspective and should not be used to justify the absence of members throughout a whole year. Several delegations whose members were also involved in election campaigns in their countries continued to participate in Assembly activities in good numbers (Austria, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, with average session participation rates of over 50%).

42. It is necessary here to underline the importance of national parliaments renewing their national delegations to the Assembly as quickly as possible, as the late renewal of delegations has a significant impact on rates of participation in Assembly activities.¹⁴

4. Conclusions

43. Statistics on delegations' participation in Assembly sessions have evened out at a reasonable level in recent years – implying the regular participation of one Assembly member in two; however, the participation rate of members in votes in plenary sittings and the participation rate in committees have considerably improved, to levels above those seen since 2001 at least.

44. This positive result can be unquestionably credited to the reform of the Assembly, which entered into force on 23 January 2012. However, it cannot overshadow some worrying concerns. At the same time, the low participation of members of national delegations in voting at plenary sessions, in spite of a clear improvement, weakens the Assembly's political influence, as is sometimes pointed out by the Committee of Ministers (or occasionally even by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe). The latter sometimes plays down the position of the Assembly, pointing out that its statutory opinions and recommendations are adopted by small numbers of members.

45. The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs held an exchange of views on the basis of this memorandum, and considered, in accordance with Resolution 1583 (2007), the conclusions which might be drawn from the analysis of the statistics on delegations' participation.

46. The committee decided to transmit this memorandum to the Bureau of the Assembly, containing the following proposals, for appropriate follow-up:

- The committee invites the President of the Assembly to notify in writing the chairpersons of the delegations and the speakers of the parliaments concerned by low participation rates (Rule 43.10 of the Rules of Procedure and paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583) or to arrange a meeting with the chairpersons of the relevant delegations, i.e.:

- . the 11 delegations affected by the measure planned under paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583 (average participation rate in Assembly sittings below 50%): Albania, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria,

¹⁴ Under the Rules of Procedure (Rule 10.3), parliaments are required to appoint members of the new delegations within six months of parliamentary elections. During 2010 and 2011, however, there has been a significant increase in the time taken to renew parliamentary delegations. 2012 and 2013 have not confirmed this trend.

- Malta, Belgium, Denmark, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Portugal and Hungary;
and
- . the 9 delegations affected by the measure planned under Rule 43.10 (average participation rate in committee meetings below 33%): Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, San Marino, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”.
- Moreover, the committee suggests that the statistics related to the participation of national delegations be made publicly available on the Assembly’s website, as was done last year.

APPENDIX I

Participation of national delegations in the Assembly part-sessions in 2013

Country	Number of members	Average presence (signatures) January 2013	Average presence (signatures) April 2013	Average presence (signatures) June 2013	Average presence (signatures) October 2013	Average presence (signatures) 2013	Rank
Albania	4	2,78%	11,11%	2,78%	38,89%	13,89%	47
Andorra	2	77,78%	88,89%	94,44%	100,00%	90,28%	1
Armenia	4	86,11%	52,78%	83,33%	83,33%	76,39%	9
Austria	6	83,33%	37,04%	31,48%	51,85%	50,93%	36
Azerbaijan	6	62,96%	57,41%	57,41%	50,00%	56,94%	27
Belgium	7	47,62%	38,10%	44,44%	34,92%	41,27%	42
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	66,67%	37,78%	33,33%	48,89%	46,67%	40
Bulgaria	6	62,96%	16,67%	29,63%	46,30%	38,89%	44
Croatia	5	28,89%	51,11%	57,78%	84,44%	55,56%	29
Cyprus	2	44,44%	83,33%	77,78%	83,33%	72,22%	13
Czech Republic	7	63,49%	66,67%	26,98%	31,75%	47,22%	39
Denmark	5	40,00%	57,78%	55,56%	22,22%	43,89%	41
Estonia	3	70,37%	77,78%	85,19%	92,59%	81,48%	6
Finland	5	57,78%	82,22%	93,33%	88,89%	80,56%	7
France	18	58,64%	48,77%	55,56%	59,26%	55,56%	29
Georgia	5	55,56%	42,22%	60,00%	55,56%	53,33%	32
Germany	18	45,68%	35,80%	27,78%	40,74%	37,50%	45
Greece	7	95,24%	77,78%	66,67%	73,02%	78,17%	8
Hungary	7	50,79%	46,03%	49,21%	49,21%	48,81%	37
Iceland	3	66,67%	18,52%	62,96%	59,26%	51,85%	34
Ireland	4	55,56%	58,33%	44,44%	52,78%	52,78%	33
Italy	18	41,98%	31,48%	40,74%	14,20%	32,10%	46
Latvia	3	55,56%	74,07%	92,59%	62,96%	71,30%	14
Liechtenstein	2	94,44%	66,67%	83,33%	33,33%	69,44%	16
Lithuania	4	80,56%	80,56%	66,67%	69,44%	74,31%	11
Luxembourg	3	81,48%	100,00%	81,48%	85,19%	87,04%	3
Malta	3	7,41%	51,85%	59,26%	44,44%	40,74%	43
Republic of Moldova	5	55,56%	24,44%	55,56%	71,11%	51,67%	35
Monaco	2	61,11%	77,78%	77,78%	61,11%	69,44%	17
Montenegro	3	37,04%	55,56%	77,78%	77,78%	62,04%	21
Netherlands	7	60,32%	71,43%	52,38%	46,03%	57,54%	26
Norway	5	86,67%	84,44%	95,56%	66,67%	83,33%	5
Poland	12	50,93%	62,96%	56,48%	55,56%	56,48%	28
Portugal	7	50,79%	44,44%	55,56%	38,10%	47,22%	38
Romania	10	20,00%	84,44%	56,67%	78,89%	60,00%	23
Russian Federation	18	67,28%	56,17%	51,85%	56,79%	58,02%	25
San Marino	2	77,78%	77,78%	66,67%	77,78%	75,00%	10
Serbia	7	79,37%	68,25%	71,43%	61,90%	70,24%	15
Slovak Republic	5	77,78%	75,56%	6,67%	86,67%	61,67%	22
Slovenia	3	74,07%	44,44%	70,37%	25,93%	53,70%	31
Spain	12	79,63%	62,04%	59,26%	69,44%	67,59%	18
Sweden	6	81,48%	88,89%	87,04%	85,19%	85,65%	4

AS/Pro (2014) 03 def

Switzerland	6	81,48%	88,89%	88,89%	94,44%	88,43%	2
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	3	55,56%	59,26%	74,07%	48,15%	59,26%	24
Turkey	12	86,11%	76,85%	67,59%	59,26%	72,45%	12
Ukraine	12	78,70%	58,33%	59,26%	55,56%	62,96%	20
United Kingdom	18	67,90%	59,88%	59,26%	66,05%	63,27%	19
	317	61,44%	57,06%	55,94%	56,92%	57,84%	

APPENDIX II

Participation of national delegations in voting at the Assembly part-sessions in 2013

Country	Votes cast in 2013	Seats		Rank
Albania	28	4	1,64%	47
Andorra	697	2	81,43%	2
Armenia	516	4	30,14%	31
Austria	828	6	32,24%	27
Azerbaijan	970	6	37,77%	21
Belgium	765	7	25,53%	41
Bosnia and Herzegovina	561	5	26,21%	40
Bulgaria	761	6	29,63%	33
Croatia	650	5	30,37%	30
Cyprus	394	2	46,03%	11
Czech Republic	799	7	26,67%	39
Denmark	626	5	29,25%	34
Estonia	744	3	57,94%	7
Finland	1250	5	58,41%	5
France	2808	18	36,45%	24
Georgia	931	5	43,50%	15
Germany	1618	18	21,00%	43
Greece	1116	7	37,25%	22
Hungary	1221	7	40,75%	18
Iceland	387	3	30,14%	31
Ireland	322	4	18,81%	46
Italy	1532	18	19,89%	44
Latvia	712	3	55,45%	8
Liechtenstein	469	2	54,79%	9
Lithuania	753	4	43,98%	14
Luxembourg	747	3	58,18%	6
Malta	246	3	19,16%	45
Republic of Moldova	974	5	45,51%	12
Monaco	316	2	36,92%	23
Montenegro	361	3	28,12%	36
Netherlands	919	7	30,67%	29
Norway	1726	5	80,65%	3
Poland	1453	12	28,29%	35
Portugal	656	7	21,90%	42
Romania	1351	10	31,57%	28
Russian Federation	2766	18	35,90%	25
San Marino	369	2	43,11%	16
Serbia	1334	7	44,53%	13
Slovak Republic	589	5	27,52%	38
Slovenia	361	3	28,12%	36
Spain	2129	12	41,45%	17
Sweden	2348	6	91,43%	1
Switzerland	1953	6	76,05%	4
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	490	3	38,16%	20
Turkey	2621	12	51,03%	10
Ukraine	2076	12	40,42%	19
United Kingdom	2656	18	34,48%	26
Total	49899	317	36,78%	

APPENDIX III

Participation in committee meetings in 2013 (6 committees)

	Country	no of members in committee	Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	Committee on Equality and Non Discrimination	Average level of participation	Rank
	<i>Number of meetings in 2013</i>		9	8	9	8	8	8		
1	Albania	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	10,00%	47
2	Andorra	1	5	8	4	4	3	6	60,00%	17
3	Armenia	1	7	7	8	4	7	6	78,00%	2
4	Austria	2	7	8	4	3	9	8	39,00%	35
5	Azerbaijan	2	13	5	14	9	9	9	59,00%	19
6	Belgium	2	13	6	9	12	7	8	55,00%	23
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	3	2	5	6	1	5	44,00%	31
8	Bulgaria	2	8	0	5	3	1	2	19,00%	46
9	Croatia	1	5	6	8	5	5	2	62,00%	16
10	Cyprus	1	5	7	6	7	6	6	74,00%	7
11	Czech Republic	2	4	4	7	3	9	7	34,00%	38
12	Denmark	1	5	1	1	6	0	6	38,00%	36
13	Estonia	1	8	7	6	5	3	4	66,00%	13
14	Finland	1	7	7	9	7	8	5	86,00%	1
15	France	4	32	15	17	25	29	16	67,00%	12
16	Georgia	1	9	3	7	8	7	4	76,00%	5
17	Germany	4	16	20	14	5	6	4	32,50%	39
18	Greece	2	16	12	14	13	9	12	76,00%	5
19	Hungary	2	14	5	10	3	9	9	50,00%	26
20	Iceland	1	7	4	5	2	4	4	52,00%	25
21	Ireland	1	6	5	6	4	3	5	58,00%	20
22	Italy	4	22	6	17	11	27	12	47,50%	28
23	Latvia	1	6	2	9	4	6	3	60,00%	17
24	Liechtenstein	1	5	1	4	2	2	0	28,00%	44
25	Lithuania	1	5	3	6	5	1	5	50,00%	26
26	Luxembourg	1	8	8	6	8	4	2	72,00%	8
27	Malta	1	4	1	5	2	2	5	38,00%	36
28	Republic of Moldova	1	3	5	6	3	0	3	40,00%	34
29	Monaco	1	5	3	3	4	3	3	42,00%	33
30	Montenegro	1	7	5	4	2	3	1	44,00%	31
31	Netherlands	2	10	5	14	7	12	7	55,00%	23
32	Norway	1	3	2	6	6	5	7	58,00%	20
33	Poland	3	20	20	11	16	20	17	69,33%	10
34	Portugal	2	9	4	1	7	3	7	31,00%	41
35	Romania	3	16	17	11	9	17	13	55,33%	22
36	Russian Federation	4	18	25	28	21	18	17	63,50%	15
37	San Marino	1	3	5	1	3	3	1	32,00%	40
38	Serbia	2	12	2	11	7	6	8	46,00%	29

39	Slovak Republic	1	3	3	0	3	1	5	30,00%	42
40	Slovenia	1	3	5	2	4	1	0	30,00%	42
41	Spain	3	22	17	25	18	17	17	77,33%	4
42	Sweden	2	17	7	12	3	10	15	64,00%	14
43	Switzerland	2	12	16	14	11	12	3	68,00%	11
44	"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	20,00%	45
45	Turkey	3	25	15	15	16	12	22	70,00%	9
46	Ukraine	3	13	10	16	10	9	11	46,00%	29
47	United Kingdom	4	32	28	33	26	22	15	78,00%	2
	Participation:	84	476	351	422	343	353	329	54,14%	
	Participation (%):		62,96	52,23	55,82	51,04	52,53	48,96		

APPENDIX IV**Average participation in votes**

Part-session	Votes cast	Number of votes	Average participation	
January 2007	20 596	203	101	32,01%
April 2007	15 901	182	87	27,56%
June 2007	11 272	149	76	23,86%
October 2007	4 219	68	62	19,57%
Total 2007	51 988	602	86	27,24%
January 2008	5 477	69	79	25,04%
April 2008	14 109	115	123	38,70%
June 2008	7 818	111	70	22,22%
October 2008	11 514	123	94	29,53%
Total 2008	38 918	418	93	29,37%
January 2009	13 144	131	100	31,65%
April 2009	11 801	133	89	27,99%
June 2009	7 967	103	77	24,40%
October 2009	11 483	121	95	29,94%
Total 2009	44 395	488	91	28,70%
January 2010	14 403	183	79	24,83%
April 2010	6 795	111	61	19,31%
June 2010	7 394	101	73	23,09%
October 2010	9 201	104	88	27,91%
Total 2010	37 793	499	76	23,89%
January 2011	9 638	94	103	32,34%
April 2011	4 729	67	71	22,27%
June 2011	8 131	97	84	26,44%
October 2011	5 689	76	75	23,61%
Total 2011	28 187	334	84	26,62%
January 2012	7 748	85	91	28,75%
April 2012	5 844	66	89	27,93%
June 2012	5 853	73	80	25,29%
October 2012	9 257	74	125	39,46%
Total 2012	28 702	298	96	30,38%
January 2013	16 698	131	127	40,21%
April 2013	7 813	64	122	38,51%
June 2013	16 196	143	113	35,73%
October 2013	9 192	90	102	32,22%
Total 2013	49 899	428	117	36,78%

APPENDIX V – list of texts adopted by the Assembly in 2013, by descending order of the number of votes

- *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan* - Resolution 1917 (23 January 2013, 225 votes*)
[pm – *The follow-up to the issue of political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (23 January 2013) – rejection of the resolution, 224 votes*]
- *Request for the opening of a monitoring procedure in respect of Hungary* - Resolution 1941 (25 June 2013, 211 votes)
- *Post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey* - Resolution 1925 (23 April 2013, 183 votes)
- *Georgia and Russia: the humanitarian situation in the conflict- and war-affected areas* - Resolution 1916 and Recommendation 2008 (23 January 2013, 178 and 171 votes)
- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina* - Recommendation 2025 (2 October 2013, 162 votes)
- *Safeguarding human rights in relation to religion and belief, and protecting religious communities from violence* [Violence against religious communities] - Resolution 1928 (24 April 2013, 158 votes)
- *National security and access to information* - Resolution 1954 and Recommendation 2024 (2 October 2013, 145 and 132 votes)
- *The situation in the Middle East* - Resolution 1940 (25 June 2013, 139 votes)
- *Popular protest and challenges to freedom of assembly, media and speech* - Resolution 1947 (27 June 2013, 135 votes)
- *The situation in Kosovo* and the role of the Council of Europe* - Resolution 1912 and Recommendation 2006 (22 January 2013, 131 and 130 votes)
- *Migration and asylum: mounting tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean* - Resolution 1918 and Recommendation 2010 (24 January 2013, 120 and 131 votes)
- *The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure* - Resolution 1953 (1 October 2013, 126 votes)
- *Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria* - Resolution 1915 (22 January 2013, 122 votes)
- *Corruption as a threat to the rule of law* - Resolution 1943 and Recommendation 2019 (26 June 2013, 121 and 119 votes)
- *Children's right to physical integrity* - Resolution 1952 and Recommendation 2023 (1 October 2013, 108 and 106 votes)
- *Challenge on procedural grounds of the still unratified credentials of Mr Andriy Shevchenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD)* - Resolution 1931 (25 April 2013, 106 votes)
- *Ensuring the viability of the Strasbourg Court: structural deficiencies in States Parties* - Resolution 1914 and Recommendation 2007 (22 January 2013, 105 and 106 votes)
- *The activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)* - Resolution 1913 (22 January 2013, 98 votes)
- *The situation in Syria* - Recommendation 2026 (3 October 2013, 98 votes)
- *Recent developments in Mali and Algeria and the threat to security and human rights in the Mediterranean region* - Resolution 1919 (24 January 2013, 96 votes)

- *Parliaments united in combating sexual violence against children: mid-term review of the ONE in FIVE Campaign* - Recommendation 2013 (23 April 2013, 95 votes*)
- *Fighting “child sex tourism* - Resolution 1926 (23 April 2013, 92 votes*)
- *The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Republic of Moldova* - Resolution 1955 (2 October 2013, 87 votes)
- *Keeping political and criminal responsibility separate* - Resolution 1950 (28 June 2013, 86 votes)
- *The state of media freedom in Europe* - Resolution 1920 (24 January 2013, 83 votes)
[pm – rejection of the recommendation, 84 votants]
- *Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity* - Resolution 1948 and Recommendation 2021 (27 June 2013, 77 and 74 votes)
- *Missing persons from Europe’s conflicts: the long road to finding humanitarian answers* - Resolution 1956 (3 October 2013, 74 votes)
- *Culture and education through national parliaments: European policies* - Resolution 1929 (24 April 2013, 72 votes)
- *Putting an end to coerced sterilisations and castrations* - Resolution 1945 (26 June 2013, 68 votes)
- *Young people's access to fundamental rights* - Recommendation 2015 (24 April 2013, 66 votes*)
- *Gender equality, reconciliation of personal and working life and shared responsibility* - Resolution 1921 (25 January 2013, 65 votes)
- *Young Europeans: an urgent educational challenge* - Resolution 1930 and Recommendation 2014 (24 April 2013, 55 and 63 votes*)
- *European Union and Council of Europe human rights agendas: synergies not duplication* - Recommendation 2027 (3 October 2013, 61 votes)
- *Ending discrimination against Roma children* - Resolution 1927 (23 April 2013, 58 votes)
- *Frontex: human rights responsibilities* – Resolution 1932 and Recommendation 2016 (25 April 2013 – 58 and 58 votes*)
- *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco* - Resolution 1942 (25 June 2013, 56 votes)
- *Management of mixed migration and asylum challenges beyond the European Union’s eastern border* - Resolution 1933 (25 April 2013 – 54 votes*)
- *Combating discrimination against older persons on the labour market* - Resolution 1958 (4 October 2013, 53 votes)
- *Draft Protocol No. 16 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* - Opinion 285 (28 June 2013, 52 votes)
- *Towards a Council of Europe convention to combat trafficking in organs, tissues and cells of human origin* - Recommendation 2009 (23 January 2013, 49 votes)
- *Draft Protocol No. 15 amending the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* - Opinion 283 (25 April 2013 – 49 votes)
- *Challenge on procedural grounds of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Iceland* - Resolution 1944 (26 June 2013, 45 votes)
- *Food security – a permanent challenge for us all* - Resolution 1957 (3 October 2013, 40 votes)

- *Strengthening the institution of Ombudsman in Europe* - Resolution 1959 (4 October 2013, 39 votes)
- *Equal access to health care* - Resolution 1946 and Recommendation 2020 (26 June 2013, 38 and 39 votes)
- *Trafficking of migrant workers for forced labour* – Resolution 1922 and Recommendation 2011 (25 January 2013, 39 and 37 votes)
- *Post-monitoring dialogue with “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”* - Resolution 1949 and Recommendation 2022 (27 June 2013, 38 and 36 votes)
- *Nanotechnology: balancing benefits and risks to public health and the environment* - Recommendation 2017 (26 April 2013 – 37 votes*)
- *Ethics in science and technology* - Resolution 1934 (26 April 2013 – 35 votes*)

(* votes taken together in the framework of joint debates)

APPENDIX VI – participation in committee meetings

Committee	2013		2012		2011		2010	
	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of plenary meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)
Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	9	62,96%	9	62,43%	9	61,51%	9	60,58%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	9	55,82%	9	66,14%	9	59,66%	9	52,91%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	8	52,23%	8	55,21%				
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	52,53%	8	51,79%	8	45,09%	8	41,22%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	8	51,04%	7	54,08%	8	43,90%	7	46,26%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	48,96%	8	44,05%	8	34,82%	8	36,76%
Monitoring Committee	9	60,69%	9	59,69%	10	55,81%	9	57,75%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	7	37,06%	5	55,25%	7	42,33%	5	44,05%
	66	53,22%	63	56,47%	83*	46,73%*	82*	46,13%*

Committee	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)
Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	11	49,51%	10	52,98%	9	65,88%	9	63,22%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	10	49,16%	10	47,62%	8	57,29%	9	52,78%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	7	54,04%	8	43,30%	8	48,22%	7	47,62%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	9	44,71%	9	40,74%	7	45,24%	8	44,79%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	10	36,63%	9	29,99%	9	46,85%	8	40,18%
Monitoring Committee	10	43,41%	10	44,59%	9	52,72%	9	54,91%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	8	22,55%	8	25,96%	5	47,41%	7	44,97%
	96*	42,91%*	94*	39,60%*	83*	47,98%*	83*	47,30%*

* Number of meetings and members' participation in meetings held by the (then) ten committees before the Assembly reform