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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

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 27 January 2015

- 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 2014 part-sessions (see Appendix I) show that the overall average level of participation of the members of the 47 delegations was 55.08%, which was substantially down on the previous six years (57.84% in 2013, 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 50% for all the part-sessions except the October part-session, with the highest level at the January part-session (60.25%) as in the previous four years.

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 2014 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 six have an average participation rate of more than 80% (Luxembourg with 93.52%, Switzerland with 91.20%, Andorra with 90.28%, Norway with 88.33%, San Marino with 84.72%, and the Republic of Moldova with 81.67%). Seven delegations were in this situation last year (eight in 2012 and seven in 2011). However, 17 of the 47 delegations' average participation rates are less than 50%; it represents a sharp deterioration compared to the improvement recorded last year (the figure was 11 in 2013, 17 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 13 in 2010, 17 in 2009 and in 2008).

9. The 17 delegations affected by the measure provided for in paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583, with an average participation rate of less than 50%, are:

- Bulgaria (25.93% – and not a single representative at the October part-session; 38.89% in 2013)
- Hungary (29.37%; 48.81% in 2013 and 46.03% in 2011)
- the Russian Federation (29.63% - due to non-participation in the June and October part-sessions)
- Belgium (29.76%; 41.27% in 2013 and 42.06% in 2012)
- "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (30.56% – and not a single representative at the April part-session; 43.52% in 2012 and 16.67% in 2011)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (31.67%; 46.67% in 2013, 35% in 2012 and 26.11% in 2011)
- Denmark (32.78%; 43.89% in 2013, 37.78% in 2012 and 32.22% in 2011)
- Malta (33.33%; 40.74% in 2013 and 30.56% in 2012)
- Germany (35.65%; 37.50% in 2013, 43.67% in 2012 and 44.91% in 2011)
- Monaco (36.11%)

- Albania (38.19%; 13.89% in 2013, 34.03% in 2012 and 36.11% in 2011)
- the Slovak Republic (40%; 35% in 2012)
- Portugal (42.06%; 47.22% in 2013, 42.46% in 2012 and 48.81% in 2011)
- Italy (49.38%; 32.10% in 2013, 36.27% in 2011)
- and Romania (49.72%; 22.78% in 2012 and 41.67% in 2011).

10. Looking at the last five years, it is worth noting that some delegations have a consistently high level of participation (Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, Andorra, Finland, Estonia, Armenia, Liechtenstein, Turkey, Lithuania), while conversely 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 2014 was 43.41%² and Italy's was 44.90%³, while the other three large delegations with 36 members consistently achieve regular higher participation levels over the same period.

11. Moreover, it shall be noted that almost none of the delegations which had a participation rate less than 50% in 2013 and/or 2012 was able to curb the trend on the long-term, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Serbia, Greece, San Marino and Croatia being the exceptions.

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 2014, the participation rate of Assembly members in votes in plenary sittings was 35.44% (it was 36.78% in 2013, 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 also ten in 2013, seven in 2012, four in 2011 and 2010, seven in 2009 and six in 2008): placed on top were four of the same five delegations in 2013, i.e. Andorra (which, with two seats achieved the best figure with 91.12%), Norway (five seats and 87.37%), Switzerland (six seats and 83.75%), Luxembourg (3 seats and 82.92%) and Sweden (six seats and 61.76%). The fact that 17 delegations' participation rates in votes were less than 25% (compared to six delegations only in 2013, but 22 in 2013, 25 in 2011, 27 in 2010, 24 in 2009 and 23 in 2008) is a very disturbing development. The worst results – with rates below 15% – were those of Malta, Montenegro, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Albania, Monaco, Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina (5.08%, 6.55%, 7.45%, 8.79% and 9.49%) (4.04%, 5.84%, 10.94%, 11.12%, 12.28% and 14.34% respectively)⁴ (see appendix II).

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 and 91.12% in 2014, Finland from 15.87% to 58.41% in 2013 and 55.82% in 2014).

15. Conversely other delegations have failed to sustain the efforts made last year in the long term (Malta, Bosnia and Herzegovina, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, Belgium, Denmark or Cyprus), whereas the declining trend has become even worse in some others like Germany (16.63% in 2014, 37.50% in 2013 and 43.67% in 2012) or 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.

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

² 35.65% in 2013, 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

³ 49.38% in 2013, 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 The other delegations concerned are Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Romania, Hungary, Armenia, the Russian Federation, Denmark, Azerbaijan and Slovenia.

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 debated⁶.

17. As to individual voting, 57 members of the Assembly took part, on average, in more than 50% of the votes during the 2014 session (compared to 58 in 2013, 44 in 2012, 33 in 2011, 24 in 2010, 37 in 2009 and 31 in 2008), which is particularly encouraging.

18. During the 2014 session, the Assembly adopted 92 texts.⁷ 22 of the 73 texts adopted at plenary sessions were voted on by over 100 members on their final adoption (30%). This is encouraging compared to previous statistics (38% in 2013, 24% in 2012, 15% in 2011, 14% in 2010, 21% in 2009 and 13% in 2008), the record being the debate on “Recent developments in Ukraine: threats to the functioning of democratic institutions” (194 votes cast).⁸ The next most successful were the texts on “Reconsideration on substantive grounds of the previously ratified credentials of the Russian delegation” (188 votes cast) and on “Refusing impunity for the killers of Sergei Magnitsky” (188 votes cast).

19. The list of texts adopted by the Assembly in plenary (Appendix V) shows this year too how much Assembly members’ interest clearly focused on topical political issues (the honouring of obligations and commitments by member States; the situation in Ukraine; the situation in the Mediterranean and migratory flows) or subjects related to the evolution of democracy and European society (situation of migrants; freedom of expression and of the media; new technologies).

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 (36 of 73 texts – i.e. 49% – were adopted with less than 80 votes). This figure remains 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 44.10 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.”*

⁵ For example, the Armenian delegation’s participation rate in the 2014 session was 72.92%, and its participation rate in voting was 20.67% only. The same applies to Azerbaijan (with a participation rate of 60.19% and a participation rate in votes of 22.81%) and Cyprus (76.39% and 32.25%).

⁶ For example, 163 members have signed the register of the sitting on 25 June 2014 afternoon, although less than 50 took part in the votes on the 3 last texts under discussion. Similarly, 106 members have signed the register of attendance for the sitting on 2 October afternoon, although 37 members only voted on the resolution on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania.

⁷ 73 of these were adopted at Assembly part-sessions and 19 at Standing Committee meetings. In 2013, the Assembly adopted 84 texts (64 of which at plenary sessions); in 2012, 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 This score is far from equalling the “record” held by the 2014 debate on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan (225 votes cast – the best figure for a text adopted since 2006), or the previous “record” held in 2012 by the debate on the honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation (209 votes cast).

⁹ In 2013, 30 of 64 texts (47%) were adopted with less than 80 votes – 32 of 58 texts (55%) in 2012, 40 of 74 texts (54%) in 2011. In 2014, 18 texts were adopted by less than 50 votes (24%) during plenary sessions (20% in 2013, 27% in 2012, 19% in 2011, and 32% in 2010).

[* 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 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 2014, the eight Assembly committees held a total of 61 meetings,¹⁰ some committees having held one meeting less compared to 2013.

26. The overall level of participation of Assembly members in the Assembly's eight committees in 2014 was 53.17%, showing that the improvement achieved in 2012 still remained (53.22% in 2013, 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 (53.78%; 54.14% in 2013 and 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. 8 delegations have average rates of participation in all committee meetings below 33% (they were 9 in 2013 and 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:

- “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, with a rate of 8.70%;
- Albania, Ukraine and Bulgaria and, with a rate of 25% or less;
- Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, and Portugal, with a rate of less than 33%.

29. 29 of the 47 delegations achieved average participation rates of 50% or more (27 in 2013, 29 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 25 in 2009 and 20 in 2008). Nine delegations – Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Georgia, Luxembourg, Croatia, Azerbaijan, Finland and the United Kingdom – 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 for the past three years to ensure a better participation in the activities of committees.

31. In 2014, more than half of the committee meetings were held in Strasbourg (32 meetings out of 61). As in previous years, participation levels were better for meetings in Strasbourg (65.53%) than for

¹⁰ They held 66 meetings in 2013 and 63 in 2012.

¹¹ In 2014, the Danish delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the delegations of Monaco and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” in any of the meetings of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the delegations of Iceland and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” in any of the meetings of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, the delegations of Albania, the Republic of Moldova and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” in any of the meetings of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons.

meetings in Paris (38.82%) or elsewhere (41.81%).¹² 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.

32. The number of meetings held in Paris has remained more or less unchanged, although the number of meetings held outside France in 2014 clearly decreased (7 meetings in 2014, 13 in 2013, 7 in 2012).

33. However, some delegations only took part in meetings held during the part-sessions in Strasbourg (Liechtenstein, San Marino, “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 (Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Iceland, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, 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 committee¹³

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 2014 as 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 six committees in 2013 and seven in 2012). The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (63.84%) had the highest participation rate, over 60%.

Next came the Monitoring Committee (55.44%), the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (54.47%), the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (52.68%), the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (51.02%), the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (50.89%). The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs had the lowest participation rates – below 50% (49.66% and 44.14% 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 since 2008.¹⁴ As it has already pointed out, some caution is required when interpreting raw

¹² The “attractiveness” of meetings in Paris may be questioned, since members’ interest in participating thereto is clearly declining this year, compared to an average of 42.22% in 2013 and 45.32% in 2012. For the very first time, meetings in places other than Paris or Strasbourg have higher rates of participation than those for meetings in Paris.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ See documents AS/Pro (2008) 13, AS/Pro (2009) 21, AS/Pro (2010) 21, AS/Pro (2012) 02, AS/Pro (2013) 02 and AS/Pro (2014) 03.

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.

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. Seven of the 17 delegations whose average participation rate in the Assembly part-sessions was less than 50% in 2014 were in an election year (Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Ukraine). 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 (Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Sweden).

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.¹⁵

43. Lastly, the unusual presence of the Russian parliamentary delegation among delegations having low attendance records in 2014 can be explained by its decision to no longer take part in the work of the Assembly and its committees, following the adoption of Resolution 1990 at the April 2014 part-session, by which the Assembly deprived members of the Russian delegation of their right to vote and some rights of representation and participation.

4. Conclusions

44. 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.

45. This positive result can be unquestionably credited to the reform of the Assembly, which entered into force in 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.

¹⁵ Under the Rules of Procedure (Rule 11.3), 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. This trend did not last however.

46. 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.

47. 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 44.10 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 17 delegations affected by the measure planned under paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583 (average participation rate in Assembly sittings below 50%): Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Ukraine; and

. the 8 delegations affected by the measure planned under Rule 44.10 (average participation rate in committee meetings below 33%): Albania, Bulgaria, Liechtenstein, Portugal, the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Ukraine.

– Moreover, the committee suggests that the statistics related to the participation of national delegations and that they 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 2014

Country	Number of members	Average presence (signatures) January 2014	Average presence (signatures) April 2014	Average presence (signatures) June 2014	Average presence (signatures) October 2014	Average presence (signatures) 2014	Rank
Albania	4	33,33%	22,22%	47,22%	50,00%	38,19%	37
Andorra	2	94,44%	88,89%	88,89%	88,89%	90,28%	3
Armenia	4	77,78%	69,44%	66,67%	77,78%	72,92%	14
Austria	6	55,56%	68,52%	50,00%	46,30%	55,09%	29
Azerbaijan	6	61,11%	68,52%	50,00%	61,11%	60,19%	23
Belgium	7	31,75%	23,81%	23,81%	39,68%	29,76%	44
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	53,33%	40,00%	24,44%	8,89%	31,67%	42
Bulgaria	6	25,93%	35,19%	42,59%	0,00%	25,93%	47
Croatia	5	68,89%	73,33%	75,56%	71,11%	72,22%	15
Cyprus	2	77,78%	61,11%	72,22%	94,44%	76,39%	10
Czech Republic	7	85,71%	74,60%	80,95%	71,43%	78,17%	7
Denmark	5	40,00%	31,11%	42,22%	17,78%	32,78%	41
Estonia	3	74,07%	66,67%	88,89%	62,96%	73,15%	13
Finland	5	77,78%	77,78%	68,89%	84,44%	77,22%	8
France	18	56,17%	53,09%	58,02%	43,21%	52,62%	30
Georgia	5	57,78%	66,67%	51,11%	53,33%	57,22%	28
Germany	18	29,01%	42,59%	28,40%	42,59%	35,65%	39
Greece	7	77,78%	55,56%	82,54%	63,49%	69,84%	17
Hungary	7	36,51%	23,81%	28,57%	28,57%	29,37%	46
Iceland	3	77,78%	48,15%	62,96%	77,78%	66,67%	18
Ireland	4	52,78%	61,11%	72,22%	72,22%	64,58%	19
Italy	18	61,11%	55,56%	43,83%	37,04%	49,38%	32
Latvia	3	66,67%	74,07%	70,37%	22,22%	58,33%	24
Liechtenstein	2	94,44%	55,56%	83,33%	61,11%	73,61%	12
Lithuania	4	75,00%	75,00%	58,33%	75,00%	70,83%	16
Luxembourg	3	100,00%	100,00%	77,78%	96,30%	93,52%	1
Malta	3	33,33%	25,93%	18,52%	55,56%	33,33%	40
Monaco	2	27,78%	55,56%	33,33%	27,78%	36,11%	38
Montenegro	3	48,15%	59,26%	55,56%	70,37%	58,33%	25
Netherlands	7	58,73%	63,49%	65,08%	65,08%	63,10%	22
Norway	5	75,56%	93,33%	95,56%	88,89%	88,33%	4
Poland	12	73,15%	72,22%	45,37%	39,81%	57,64%	27
Portugal	7	53,97%	38,10%	44,44%	31,75%	42,06%	35
Republic of Moldova	5	86,67%	86,67%	82,22%	71,11%	81,67%	6
Romania	10	73,33%	38,89%	48,89%	37,78%	49,72%	31
Russian Federation	18	66,05%	52,47%	0,00%	0,00%	29,63%	45
San Marino	2	77,78%	83,33%	88,89%	88,89%	84,72%	5
Serbia	7	57,14%	57,14%	88,89%	96,83%	75,00%	11
Slovak Republic	5	24,44%	66,67%	13,33%	55,56%	40,00%	36
Slovenia	3	37,04%	62,96%	37,04%	44,44%	45,37%	34
Spain	12	71,30%	66,67%	51,85%	64,81%	63,66%	21
Sweden	6	81,48%	85,19%	68,52%	22,22%	64,35%	20

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Switzerland	6	92,59%	90,74%	88,89%	92,59%	91,20%	2
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3	55,56%	0,00%	48,15%	18,52%	30,56%	43
Turkey	12	78,70%	82,41%	74,07%	70,37%	76,39%	9
Ukraine	12	37,04%	46,30%	51,85%	49,07%	46,06%	33
United Kingdom	18	61,73%	58,02%	57,41%	54,94%	58,02%	26
	317	60,25%	57,87%	52,37%	49,84%	55,08%	

APPENDIX II

Participation of national delegations in voting at the Assembly part-sessions in 2014

Country	Votes cast in 2014	Seats		Rank
Albania	198	4	11,12%	44
Andorra	811	2	91,12%	1
Armenia	368	4	20,67%	35
Austria	889	6	33,30%	24
Azerbaijan	609	6	22,81%	32
Belgium	563	7	18,07%	39
Bosnia and Herzegovina	319	5	14,34%	41
Bulgaria	328	6	12,28%	42
Croatia	982	5	44,13%	13
Cyprus	287	2	32,25%	25
Czech Republic	1825	7	58,59%	8
Denmark	483	5	21,71%	33
Estonia	650	3	48,69%	12
Finland	1242	5	55,82%	10
France	2392	18	29,86%	27
Georgia	846	5	38,02%	18
Germany	1332	18	16,63%	40
Greece	1086	7	34,86%	20
Hungary	636	7	20,42%	36
Iceland	421	3	31,54%	26
Ireland	490	4	27,53%	29
Italy	2834	18	35,38%	19
Latvia	512	3	38,35%	16
Liechtenstein	344	2	38,65%	14
Lithuania	688	4	38,65%	14
Luxembourg	1107	3	82,92%	4
Malta	54	3	4,04%	47
Republic of Moldova	1297	5	58,29%	9
Monaco	109	2	12,25%	43
Montenegro	78	3	5,84%	46
Netherlands	1066	7	34,22%	23
Norway	1944	5	87,37%	2
Poland	1844	12	34,53%	22
Portugal	595	7	19,10%	38
Romania	879	10	19,75%	37
Russian Federation	1681	18	20,99%	34
San Marino	530	2	59,55%	7
Serbia	1522	7	48,86%	11
Slovak Republic	569	5	25,57%	30
Slovenia	326	3	24,42%	31
Spain	2040	12	38,20%	17
Sweden	1649	6	61,76%	5
Switzerland	2236	6	83,75%	3
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	146	3	10,94%	45
Turkey	3206	12	60,04%	6
Ukraine	1518	12	28,43%	28
United Kingdom	2781	18	34,72%	21
Total	48312	317	35,44%	

APPENDIX III

Participation in committee meetings in 2014 (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
Number of meetings in 2014		8	7	8	7	8	8		
1 Albania	1	5	2	1	1	0	1	21,74%	46
2 Andorra	1	5	6	8	3	1	5	60,87%	16
3 Armenia	1	6	4	8	5	6	3	69,57%	10
4 Austria	2	8	8	7	1	6	8	41,30%	35
5 Azerbaijan	2	14	10	15	6	9	12	71,74%	7
6 Belgium	2	9	4	10	3	6	9	44,57%	33
7 Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	3	5	4	5	1	6	52,17%	24
8 Bulgaria	2	6	1	3	7	2	4	25,00%	44
9 Croatia	1	6	6	4	7	5	6	73,91%	6
10 Cyprus	1	7	5	5	6	8	7	82,61%	1
11 Czech Republic	2	15	7	8	8	12	9	64,13%	13
12 Denmark	1	4	0	2	4	1	6	36,96%	36
13 Estonia	1	5	2	7	5	5	4	60,87%	16
14 Finland	1	4	6	7	3	3	5	60,87%	16
15 France	4	29	11	24	19	30	18	71,20%	8
16 Georgia	1	7	5	8	4	6	7	80,43%	4
17 Germany	4	17	12	18	11	14	14	46,74%	31
18 Greece	2	16	11	15	9	12	13	82,61%	1
19 Hungary	2	9	6	6	7	9	10	51,09%	29
20 Iceland	1	7	4	4	0	6	3	52,17%	24
21 Ireland	1	5	4	5	5	6	3	60,87%	16
22 Italy	4	13	12	9	23	28	24	59,24%	22
23 Latvia	1	4	1	8	1	4	4	47,83%	30
24 Liechtenstein	1	4	1	4	1	1	1	26,09%	43
25 Lithuania	1	7	1	4	3	3	3	45,65%	32
26 Luxembourg	1	7	5	7	5	6	7	80,43%	4
27 Malta	1	4	2	1	2	3	4	34,78%	37
28 Republic of Moldova	1	2	7	4	6	0	5	52,17%	24
29 Monaco	1	4	4	0	7	3	6	52,17%	24
30 Montenegro	1	7	4	4	2	5	6	60,87%	16
31 Netherlands	2	9	4	13	8	12	10	60,87%	16
32 Norway	1	4	5	7	6	4	4	65,22%	12
33 Poland	3	14	11	8	12	15	14	53,62%	23
34 Portugal	2	6	5	2	6	4	6	31,52%	40
35 Romania	3	15	14	10	9	13	11	52,17%	24
36 Russian Federation	4	10	12	8	8	6	6	27,17%	42
37 San Marino	1	2	4	1	3	4	2	34,78%	37
38 Serbia	2	15	8	12	7	7	9	63,04%	15

39	Slovak Republic	1	3	2	2	1	3	3	30,43%	41
40	Slovenia	1	3	6	3	2	1	1	34,78%	37
41	Spain	3	20	13	23	12	12	15	68,84%	11
42	Sweden	2	13	5	9	1	3	8	42,39%	34
43	Switzerland	2	12	12	11	8	7	9	64,13%	13
44	"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	8,70%	47
45	Turkey	3	22	13	16	19	21	23	82,61%	1
46	Ukraine	3	12	4	4	4	5	4	23,91%	45
47	United Kingdom	4	28	17	27	25	19	15	71,20%	8
	Participation:	84	429	292	366	300	337	354	53,78%	
	Participation (%):		63,84	49,66	54,46	51,02	50,15	52,68		

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%
January 2014	10 012	81	124	38,99%
April 2014	21 961	190	116	36,46%
June 2014	7 730	82	94	29,74%
October 2014	8 609	92	94	29,52%
Total 2014	48 312	445	109	34,25%

APPENDIX V – list of texts adopted by the Assembly in 2014, by descending order of the number of votes

- *Recent developments in Ukraine: threats to the functioning of democratic institutions* - Resolution 1988 (9 April 2014, 194 votes)
- *Reconsideration on substantive grounds of the previously ratified credentials of the Russian delegation (Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly)* - Resolution 1990 (10 April 2014, 188 votes)
- *Refusing impunity for the killers of Sergei Magnitsky* - Resolution 1966 and Recommendation 2031 (28 January 2014, 186 and 188 votes)
- *The large-scale arrival of mixed migratory flows on Italian shores* - Resolution 2000 and Recommendation 2047 (24 June 2014, 159 and 169 votes*)
- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine* - Resolution 1974 and Recommendation 2035 (30 January 2014, 161 and 166 votes)
- *Internet and politics: the impact of new information and communication technology on democracy* - Resolution 1970 and Recommendation 2033 (29 January 2014, 141 and 145 votes)
- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Georgia* - Resolution 2015 (1 October 2014, 138 votes)
- *Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism* - Resolution 2011 and Recommendation 2052 (30 September 2014, 137 and 124 votes)
- *The “left-to-die boat”: actions and reactions* - Resolution 1999 and Recommendation 2046 (24 June 2014, 131 and 136 votes*)
- *Towards a better European democracy: facing the challenges of a federal Europe* - Resolution 2003 and Recommendation 2046 (25 June 2014, 132 votes)
- *The right to internet access* - Resolution 1987 (9 April 2014, 130 votes*)
- *Improving user protection and security in cyberspace* - Resolution 1986 and Recommendation 2041 (8 April 2014, 126 and 125 votes)
- *Prostitution: trafficking and modern slavery in Europe* - Resolution 1983 (8 April 2014, 115 votes)
- *Threats against humanity posed by the terrorist group known as “IS”: violence against Christians and other religious or ethnic communities* - Resolution 2016 and Recommendation 2055 (2 October 2014, 105 and 110 votes)
- *Parliamentary contribution to resolving the Western Sahara conflict* - Resolution 2004 (25 June 2014, 99 votes*)
- *Women’s rights and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean co-operation* - Resolution 2012 and Recommendation 2053 (30 September 2014, 92 and 94 votes)
- *Syrian refugees: how to organise and support international assistance?* - Resolution 1971 (29 January 2014, 93 votes)
- *The situation and rights of traditional national minorities in Europe* - Resolution 1985 and Recommendation 2040 (8 April 2014, 93 and 90 votes)
- *Violence in and through the media* - Resolution 2001 and Recommendation 2048 (24 June 2014, 91 and 92 votes)
- *Request for Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* - Resolution 1984 (8 April 2014, 90 votes)
- *Tackling racism in the police* - Resolution 1968 (28 January 2014, 89 votes*)

- *A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe* - Resolution 1967 and Recommendation 2032 (28 January 2014, 81 and 86 votes*)
- *Access to nationality and the effective implementation of the European Convention on Nationality* - Resolution 1989 and Recommendation 2042 (9 April 2014, 70 and 71 votes)
- *Good governance and enhanced quality in education* - Resolution 2013 and Recommendation 2054 (30 September 2014, 70 and 67 votes*)
- *Raising the status of vocational education and training* - Resolution 2014 (30 September 2014, 68 votes*)
- *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council* - Resolution 1969 (28 January 2014, 62 votes)
- *Stepping up action against global inequalities: Europe's contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) process* - Resolution 1975 (30 January 2014, 62 votes)
- *Urgent need to deal with failures to co-operate with the European Court of Human Rights* - Resolution 1991 and Recommendation 2043 (10 April 2014, 59 and 58 votes)
- *Migrants: ensuring they are a benefit for European host countries* - Resolution 1972 (29 January 2014, 59 votes*)
- *Energy diversification as a fundamental contribution to sustainable development* - Resolution 1977 (30 January 2014, 59 votes*)
- *Integration tests: helping or hindering integration?* - Resolution 1973 and Recommendation 2034 (29 January 2014, 58 and 57 votes*)
- *Climate change: a framework for a global agreement in 2015* - Resolution 1976 (30 January 2014, 58 votes*)
- *Integration tests: helping or hindering integration?* - Resolution 1973 and Recommendation 2034 (30 January 2014, 58 and 57 votes*)
- *Evaluation of the implementation of the reform of the Parliamentary Assembly* - Resolution 2002 (24 June 2014, 58 votes)
- *Challenges for the Council of Europe Development Bank* - Resolution 2007 (26 June 2014, 57 votes)
- *The protection of minors against excesses of sects* - Resolution 1992 (10 April 2014, 54 votes)
- *The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (October 2013 – September 2014)* - Resolution 2018 (2 October 2014, 50 votes)
- *Accountability of international organisations for human rights violations* - Resolution 1979 and Recommendation 2037 (31 January 2014, 48 and 47 votes)
- *Revision of the European Convention on Transfrontier Television* - Resolution 1978 and Recommendation 2036 (31 January 2014, 46 and 48 votes)
- *The alternative to immigration detention of children* - Resolution 2020 and Recommendation 2056 (3 October 2014, 46 and 48 votes)
- *Towards optimum breast cancer services across Europe* - Resolution 2021 (3 October 2014, 46 votes)
- *Identities and diversity within intercultural societies* - Resolution 2005 and Recommendation 2049 (25 June 2014, 43 and 45 votes*)

- *Europe's public administrations in flux: public service under threat?* - Resolution 2008 and Recommendation 2050 (26 June 2014, 43 and 45 votes)
- *Reinforcement of the independence of the European Court of Human Rights* - Resolution 2009 and Recommendation 2051 (27 June 2014, 41 and 45 votes)
- *The activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (BERD) in 2013-2014* - Resolution 2017 (2 October 2014, 45 votes)
- *Integration of migrants in Europe: the need for a proactive, long-term and global policy* - Resolution 2006 (25 June 2014, 44 votes*)
- *Child-friendly juvenile justice: from rhetoric to reality* - Resolution 2010 (27 June 2014, 44 votes)
- *Decent work for all* - Resolution 1993 (10 April 2014, 42 votes)
- *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania* - Resolution 2019 (2 October 2014, 37 votes)
- *Ending child poverty in Europe* - Resolution 1995 and Recommendation 2044 (11 April 2014, 36 and 36 votes)
- *Refugees and the right to work* - Resolution 1994 (11 April 2014, 33 votes)

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

APPENDIX VI – participation in committee meetings

Committee	2014		2013		2012		2011	
	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	8	63,84%	9	62,96%	9	62,43%	9	61,51%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	8	54,47%	9	55,82%	9	66,14%	9	59,66%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	7	49,66%	8	52,23%	8	55,21%		
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	50,89%	8	52,53%	8	51,79%	8	45,09%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	7	51,02%	8	51,04%	7	54,08%	8	43,90%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	52,68%	8	48,96%	8	44,05%	8	34,82%
Monitoring Committee	9	55,44%	9	60,69%	9	59,69%	10	55,81%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	6	44,14%	7	37,06%	5	55,25%	7	42,33%
	61	53,17%	66	53,22%	63	56,47%	83*	46,73%*

Committee	2010		2009		2008		2007	
	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	9	60,58%	9	63,22%	9	65,88%	10	52,98%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	9	52,91%	9	52,78%	8	57,29%	10	47,62%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	41,22%	7	47,62%	8	48,22%	8	43,30%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	7	46,26%	8	44,79%	7	45,24%	9	40,74%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	36,76%	8	40,18%	9	46,85%	9	29,99%
Monitoring Committee	9	57,75%	9	54,91%	9	52,72%	10	44,59%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	5	44,05%	7	44,97%	5	47,41%	8	25,96%
	82*	46,13%*	83*	47,30%*	83*	47,98%*	94*	39,60%*

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