

Doc. 15197 14 December 2020

Election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Communication

Committee of Ministers

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I. Letter from the Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly dated 9 July 2020

[non-official translation]

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I have the honour to refer to the procedure for appointment to the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and to inform you that the Ministers' Deputies adopted, at their 1380bis meeting on 8 July 2020, the attached Resolution transmitting to the Assembly the following candidatures in alphabetical order:

- Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis;
- Mr Wojciech Sawicki.

. . .

II. Resolution CM/Res(2020)7

on the appointment to the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 8 July 2020 at the 1380bis meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

The Committee of Ministers, under the Regulations relating to the appointment of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General of the Assembly having the rank of Deputy Secretary General,

Having taken note of the letters addressed to the Secretary General by nine representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and by the Government of Poland, proposing the election of Mr Wojciech Sawicki as Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;

Having taken note of the letters addressed to the Secretary General by ten representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and by the Government of Greece, proposing the election of Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis as Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly:

Having interviewed the two candidates;

Having consulted the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly in the Joint Committee on 25 June 2020,

Decides to submit to the Parliamentary Assembly, for appointment to the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, for a five-year term starting on 1 February 2021, the following candidatures in alphabetical order:

- Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis;
- Mr Wojciech Sawicki.

III. Candidature of Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis

On 11 March 2020, the Ministers' Deputies (at their 1370th meeting of the Deputies, item 1.7) adopted the timetable concerning the procedure for the election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly. In that timetable 4 May 2020 was fixed as the closing date for the submission of candidates and 10 June 2020 (1378th meeting of the Deputies) was fixed as the date for the preliminary examination of candidatures by the Deputies.

On 4 May 2020, the Secretary General forwarded to the Committee of Ministers the candidature of Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, the current Head of Secretariat of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Secretary General appended to that communication a copy of the letters addressed to her between 16 March and 29 April 2020 by the following members of the Assembly (in alphabetical order) in which they proposed the candidature of Ms Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis: [see below].

The same day, the Secretary General forwarded the letter of 4 May 2020 signed by Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, submitting, on behalf of the Government of the Hellenic Republic, the candidature of Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis for the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly. She also forwarded the letter, attached to the letter of Minister Varvitsiotis and signed by Ms Dora Bakoyannis, offering support to this candidature on behalf of the Greek delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly [see hereinafter].

Dear Secretary General,

In accordance with the Regulations relating inter alia to the appointment of the Secretary General of the Assembly, we would like to propose Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, currently Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly, to the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly. You will find appended her curriculum vitae.

We would be most grateful if you could forward this proposal to the Committee of Ministers for preliminary examination and subsequent consideration, on the occasion of the consultation with the Assembly in the Joint Committee, in accordance with the timetable for the procedure for the election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 March 2020.

. . .

Signed:

- Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfsdóttir, GUE, Iceland
- Mr Titus Corlățean, SOC, Romania
- Dame Cheryl Gillan, EC/DA, United Kingdom
- Mr Alvise Maniero, NR, Italy
- Baroness Doreen Massey, SOC, United Kingdom
- Mr Andreas Nick, EPP/CD, Germany
- Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, EPP/CD, Netherlands
- Mr Franck Schwabe, SOC, Germany
- Mr Davor Ivo Stier, EPP/CD, Croatia
- Ms Nicole Trisse, ADLE, France

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Athens, 4 May 2020

Dear Secretary Govern

I have the pleasure to submit to you, on behalf of the Government of the Hellenic Republic, the candidacy of Dr. Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis for the position of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in accordance with Article 1.a.i. of the Regulations.

Dr.Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis has demonstrated, throughout her 27 year-long career at the Council of Europe, that she possesses the qualities, integrity and sound judgement, required for the position of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly. For the past 21 years, she has been working with Parliamentarians from all over Europe, having served in several positions in the Parliamentary Assembly, notably as Head of the Secretariat of the Political Affairs and Democracy Committee and Acting Head of the Monitoring Committee. She is well-versed in the Assembly's working methods and has a profound understanding of the full scope of the Organisation's activities and its structures.

Mrs. Marija Pejčinović-Burić

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Having served, myself, as a member of the Parliamentary Assembly for many years, I have had a first-hand experience of her professional and interpersonal qualities, as well as her leadership skills, including her ability to consolidate different views in a very constructive way. It is thanks to these qualities that the Greek Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is supporting her candidacy. I attach, herewith, the letter addressed to you, on behalf of the Greek Delegation, by its Chairwoman, Mrs Dora Bakoyannis.

I am convinced that Dr. Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis has all the qualities that make her an outstanding candidate for the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, from where she will have the opportunity to further promote our common values and ideals.

I would be grateful if you could forward her candidacy to the Committee of Ministers, for further consideration.

Please accept, dear Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Miltiadis Varvitsiotis



DORA BAKOYANNIS MEMBER OF THE HELLENIC PARLIAMENT – NEA DEMOKRATIA

Marija Pejčinović Burić Secretary General Council of Europe

Athens, April 23rd, 2020

Dear Madame Secretary General,

On behalf of the Greek delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, I would like to, hereby, offer our support to the candidacy of **Dr**. **Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis** for the position of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Dr. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis has dedicated her career, of almost 30 years, to the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly. She possesses deep knowledge and expertise in the workings of the Assembly and of its committees, having served in sensitive positions for many years. Her understanding of political, legal, and administrative issues, which lie in the very core of the Parliamentary Assembly's work, are complimented by her emotional intelligence and ability to form strong ties of trust and cooperation with parliamentarians, stakeholders and colleagues.

All the above knowledge, skills and competences are concentrated in the candidacy of a strong, dedicated and talented woman that is Ms. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis. Her adherence and belief to the ideals of democracy, parliamentarism and human rights, to which she has dedicated her life, are an inspiration, and reflect the qualities a Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly should possess. In these troubling past few months, where the entire world is suffering, the need for strong leaders that will bring us together has become paramount.



Dr. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis reflects such a strong, female leader, and to that end, the entire Greek delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe offers its support for her candidacy.

Sincerely,

Dora Bakoyannis

Chairwoman
Greek Delegation to PACE

Approved by the Members of the Greek Delegation

Stylianidis Evripidis, Representative, EPP/CD

Pipili Fotini, Representative, EPP/CD

Kairidis Dimitris, Representative, EPP/CD

Kasimati Nina, Representative, EPP/CD

Katrougalos Georgios, Representative, UEL

Papandreou Georgios, Representative, SOC COE

Rousopoulos Theodoros, Representative, EPP/CD

Chatzivasileiou Anastasios, Representative EPP/CD

Famelos Sokratis, Representative, UEL

Triantafyllidis Alexandros, Representative, UEL

Kanelli Liana, Representative, UEL



CURRICULUM VITAE

Born in Athens, Greece, on 28 February 1967 Married, two children

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH: fluent FRENCH: fluent ITALIAN: fluent GREEK: mother tongue

CAREER IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Political Affairs and Democracy Committee

- Head of the Secretariat (2010-present)
- Secretary of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly on the Role and Mission of the Assembly (first half of 2018)
- Co-Secretary (1994-1995)

Monitoring Committee

- Secretary and, as of January 2008, Acting Head of the Secretariat (2006-2009)
- Co-secretary (1997-2000)

Legal Affairs Committee

• Co-Secretary (1996-1997)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR

Monitoring Department Directorate of Strategic Planning

- Deputy and, as of April 2005, Acting Head, responsible for the monitoring procedure of the Committee of Ministers (2000-2006)
- Human Resources Correspondent for the Directorate

EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

· Lawyer (Sept. 1993- Febr. 1994)

Despina

CHATZIVASSILIOU-TSOVILIS

Head of Secretariat — Political Affairs and Democracy Committee Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Dr Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis has a total of 27 years of professional experience in the Council of Europe. She has worked for 21 years with and for parliamentarians from all over Europe in the Parliamentary Assembly. During the last 12 years, she has led the Secretariats of the Monitoring and then Political Affairs and Democracy committees. She provided advice to four successive Secretaries General of the Assembly, numerous committee Chairpersons and Presidents of the Assembly.

She has also acquired solid experience in intergovernmental co-operation having worked for the Committee of Ministers monitoring procedure at the Directorate of Strategic Planning (DSP). Along with strong team management skills, she developed her experience in human resources management as Human Resources Correspondent for the whole DSP.

She is a Doctor in law, holding a PhD on the European Convention of Human Rights from the European University Institute (EUI, Florence, Italy). She started her career at the European Commission of Human Rights. She is of Greek nationality.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Political and legal experience

Contributing to the Organisation's enlargement and monitoring function

- contributed to the definition of accession criteria for new member States;
- played an active role in the accession of six member States, having assisted the "eminent lawyers" (former judges of the European Court of Human Rights) and/or the rapporteurs of the Political and Legal committees to prepare respectively pre-accession legal reports or accession opinions. In this, she put to the disposal of the Parliamentary Assembly her legal experience and knowledge of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) as well as her strong negotiation skills and political flair;
- contributed to the development of the Assembly's monitoring mechanism to accompany reforms in new member States and verify the implementation of accession commitments which led to the creation of the Monitoring Committee in 1997; she assisted rapporteurs in charge of monitoring with respect to 14 member States and participated in numerous election observation missions;
- as Deputy and Acting Head of the Monitoring Department at the Directorate of Strategic Planning, she contributed to developing country specific monitoring within the Committee of Ministers, linked to intergovernmental co-operation programmes and activities.

Handling politically sensitive and complex files

- provided appropriate advice and support to parliamentarians handling with skill, impartiality and discretion politically sensitive and complex files and issues such as crises and conflict situations in and between member States, including frozen conflicts;
- assisted parliamentarians to identify priorities for the Assembly, enhance its role and mission as the Council of Europe's political engine, streamline its action, improve synergies with the Committee of Ministers and thus strengthen its relevance for the benefit of citizens and member States;
- contributed recently (April 2019-January 2020) to the definition of a complementary joint procedure by the Assembly, the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in case of violations by member States of their statutory obligations.

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PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

- European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy: Research Assistant for Professor Antonio Cassese, former President of the CPT and of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (1992-1993)
- Law firm A.Chiotellis-I.Yannidis, Athens, Greece: trainee lawyer (1988-1989); as of 1994, member of the Athens Bar Association.
- Criminal Law Review, Poenika Chronika, Athens, Greece: member of the editorial board (1986-1993)
- Apollonion Musical School: professor of classical guitar (1984-1988)

EDUCATION

DOCTOR JURIS

• EUI, Florence, Italy - PhD thesis on "Pre-trial Deprivation of Liberty under the European Convention on Human Rights: a critical analysis of the Strasbourg case-law", under the supervision of Professor Antonio Cassese and Professor Stefan Trechsel, graduated with Honors (summa cum laude) in 1994 following four years of research fellowship

LAW DEGREE

 Law School, University of Athens, graduated with Honors (top of the year) in 1988

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Scuola Italiana d'Atene and Anavrita

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

- Together with Heinrich Klebes Problèmes d'ordre constitutionnel dans le processus d'adhésion d'États de l'Europe centrale et orientale au Conseil de l'Europe, Revue universelle des droits de l'homme 1996, Vol. 8 N° 8-9, pp. 269-286.
- L'adhésion de la Russie au Conseil de l'Europe, « Le Conseil de l'Europe acteur de la recomposition de l'Europe », Cahiers de l'Espace Europe 1997, N° 10, pp. 27-60.
- Effectiveness of judicial remedies: an analysis of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights under Articles 5 and 6, ERA-Forum 4/2004, Academy of European Law (ERA), Trier.

Preparing responses to democratic challenges in Europe

- contributed to setting up the World Forum of Democracy, having assisted
 the rapporteur and in close co-operation with the intergovernmental sector
 in promoting the role of the Council of Europe as a global reference on
 Democracy and coordinating the Assembly participation in the first editions;
- assisted parliamentarians to identify good practice on electoral matters, based also on the findings of the Assembly's election observation missions, and make proposals which fed into the work of the Venice Commission and follow-up conferences i.a. on the abuse of administrative resources; the updating of the Venice Commission's Code of Good Practice on Referendums is another example of follow-up;
- contributed to the Assembly's endorsement of the initiative by youth activists to make 22 July the European Day for Victims of Hate Crime through her work on counteracting neo-Nazism.

External relations

- assisted rapporteurs in promoting stronger Council of Europe European
 Union partnership in the aftermath of the Lisbon treaty, including EU
 accession to the ECHR;
- provided assistance to the Assembly—European Parliament Joint Informal Body which in 2011 agreed on arrangements regarding the European Parliament's participation in the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights following EU accession to the ECHR;
- put in place streamlined co-operation between the Assembly and the OECD, ensuring the Assembly's participation in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network as an institutional partner, thus strengthening synergies and enhancing the parliamentary dimension of the co-operation;
- contributed to the implementation of the Assembly's neighbourhood policy by assisting parliamentarians to promote Partnership for Democracy status or ad hoc cooperation with parliaments from neighbouring regions, accession to Council of Europe conventions, co-operation with the Venice Commission and the North-South Centre and thus adherence beyond its borders to standards and values upheld by the Council of Europe, including in the area of gender equality;
- co-organised several regional conferences, meetings and visits, most recently in Dubrovnik, bringing together parliamentarians and experts from the Middle East, the Southern coast of the Mediterranean and the Council of Europe.

Institutional experience and working together

- put to the benefit of the Assembly her broad knowledge of the Organisation and in particular: initiated and promoted the co-operation between the Assembly and the Venice Commission; developed synergies with the Commissioner for Human Rights and other monitoring bodies, and drew examples from the Court's case-law to substantiate the political positions of rapporteurs;
- initiated the practice of complementing Assembly monitoring reports with recommendations to the Committee of Ministers proposing concrete assistance and co-operation activities for the countries concerned thus linking Assembly and intergovernmental action;
- provided advice and guidance to the President of the Assembly as secretary to the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the Role and Mission of the Assembly which, in the first half of 2018, brought together Chairpersons of all national delegations, political groups and committees and helped him reach consensus on a report summarising proposals for future Assembly action;
- forged close working relationships of trust with MPs, including Assembly Presidents and committees' Chairpersons, from different political cultures and traditions, thanks to her interpersonal skills and human approach;
- demonstrated her strong resilience capacity and managerial skills in leading and motivating teams, both in the Assembly and in the intergovernmental sector, even in situations of acute pressure;
- developed human resources management experience through special training and as Human Resources Correspondent for the whole Directorate of Strategic Planning.

III. Candidature of Mr Wojciech Sawicki

On 11 March 2020, the Ministers' Deputies (at their 1370th meeting of the Deputies, item 1.7), adopted the timetable concerning the procedure for the election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly. In that timetable 4 May 2020 was fixed as the closing date for the submission of candidates and 10 June 2020 (1378th meeting of the Deputies) was fixed as the date for the preliminary examination of candidatures by the Deputies.

On 30 April 2020, the Secretary General forwarded to the Committee of Ministers the candidature of Mr Wojciech Sawicki, the current Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Secretary General appended to that communication a copy of the letters addressed to her between 5 March and 22 April 2020 by the following members of the Assembly (in alphabetical order) in which they proposed the candidature of Mr Sawicki: [see below].

The same day, the Secretary General forwarded the letter of 30 April 2020 signed by Ambassador Janusz Stańczyk, Permanent Representative of Poland to the Council of Europe, also expressing the support of the Government of the Republic of Poland for the candidature of Mr Wojciech Sawicki for re-election to the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly [see hereinafter].

Dear Secretary General,

In accordance with the Regulations relating to the appointment of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, we would like to propose Mr Wojciech Sawicki, current Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, as candidate for the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly whose term of office will begin on 1 February 2021. Your will find appended his curriculum vitae.

We would be most grateful if you could forward this proposal to the Committee of Ministers for examination and subsequent consideration on the occasion of the consultation with the Assembly in the Joint Committee during 2020 June part-session.

. . .

Signed:

- Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfsdóttir, UEL, Iceland
- Mr Boriss Cilevičs, SOC, Latvia
- Sir Roger Gale, EC/DA, United Kingdom
- Mr Antonio Gutiérrez, SOC, Spain
- Mr Killion Munyama, EPP/CD, Poland
- Mr Aleksander Pociej, EPP/CD, Poland
- Ms Ingjerd Schou, EPP/CD, Norway
- Ms Nicole Trisse, ALDE, France
- Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, EPP/CD, Ukraine

Strasbourg, 30 April 2020



Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg

SPRE/4011/432/2020

H.E. Marija Pejčinović-Burić Secretary General Council of Europe

Madam Secretary General,

I would like to take this opportunity inform you, Madam Secretary General, that the Government of the Republic of Poland extends its full support to the candidature of Mr. Wojciech Sawicki for reelection to the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

As you will be aware, Mr. Sawicki's candidature has recently been presented in due course by the members of the Parliamentary Assembly.

I am convinced that the exceptional diplomatic and top managerial skills already proven in so many delicate and demanding situations during the past years, clearly demonstrate that Mr. Sawicki is best suited to continue performing the tasks of Secretary General of our Parliamentary Assembly.

His extensive experience as well as a fully impartial and professional approach to his work, provide us with a guarantee that the crucial cooperation between the Council's statutory organs will continue to improve and strengthen for the benefit of the Organization and its Member States.

Mr. Sawicki has been instrumental in assisting the members of the Parliamentary Assembly in stirring the PACE towards stability, efficiency and close cooperation with the Committee of Ministers.

In these challenging and demanding times, we are certain that professional excellence, experience and continuity are most needed at the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly. Mr. Sawicki can offer all of these qualities and more.

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For the above reasons we would encourage Member States of the Council of Europe to support the candidature of Wojciech Sawicki.

Janusz Stancz Ambassador

Please accept, Madam Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

cc.

H.E. Irakli Giviashvili

President of the Committee of Minsters Deputies

2, rue Geiler 67000 Strasbourg, France

Wojciech SAWICKI Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



Since 1 February 2011

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

May 2006 - January 2011

Director General, Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (deputy to the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly)

November 2009 - March 2010

Acting Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

October 1996 - January 2011

Co-director of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation

June 1996 - April 2006

Director (Deputy Clerk) – Head of the General Services Department of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- giving assistance to the Secretary General (Clerk) of the Parliamentary
 Assembly in all his tasks, and replacing him if need be;
- responsible for the Interparliamentary cooperation work programme;
- responsible for coordination of committees' activities;
- responsible for management of the Staff of the Secretariat,
 Administration and Finance.

February 1990 - May 1996

Secretary General of the Polish Senate.

- responsible for setting up and managing all aspects of the Upper House (Senate) of the Polish Parliament's day to day activities;
- providing political, legal and procedural advice to all statutory organs of the Senate;
- responsible for maintaining contacts with the secretariats of other Parliaments;
- co-ordinator on the Polish side for the implementation of long term assistance programmes by a number of Western Parliaments.

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October 1977 - January 1990

Programmer and Head of Department in the Power Industry Computer Centre – Warsaw, Poland.

 responsible for planning implementing and maintaining of computer operating systems.

1979 - 1986 - Outside lecturer for the Polish Academy of Sciences / Warsaw

Miscellaneous:

1990 to present - Association of Secretaries General of Parliament

- Member (since 1990)
- Member of the Executive Committee (1992–1996)
- Vice-President (1995–1996)
- Honorary Member (since 1996)

<u>1979 - 1996</u> - Member of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw **Club of Catholic Intellectuals**

- 1981-1984: Vice-president of the Club
- 1984-1990: Treasurer of the Club.

<u>1980 - 1981</u> - Chairman of the "Solidarnosc" Trade Union Section at the Power Industry Computer Centre.

<u>1981 – 1987</u> – Member of the Church Committee to Assist (Political) Prisoners and their Families (set up following the imposition of martial law in December 1981); Head of the Registry and Information Office of the Committee, responsible for setting up and managing the information system of the Committee with more than 18.000 entries.

Distinctions:

2011 - Commander Cross of the Order of the Polish Renaissance (Polonia Restituta)
2002 - Gold Cross of Merit (Poland)

Education – Warsaw University, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Sciences – M. Sc. In Computer Sciences specializing in operating systems (1978)

Languages - English, French and Russian

Nationality - Polish

Date of birth - 20 March 1955

Status - Married, 3 children