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## Election of the Deputy Secretary General 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 29 June 2020**

...

I have the honor to transmit herewith Resolution CM/Res(2020)4 on the appointment to the post of Deputy Secretary General, which the Committee of Ministers adopted on 26 June 2020.

...

Signed: Panos Beglitis, Chair of the Ministers' Deputies

**II. Resolution CM/Res(2020)4  
on the appointment of the Deputy Secretary General**

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 26 June 2020 at the 1379bis meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 36.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to the Regulations relating to the appointment of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly having the rank of Deputy Secretary General;

Having regard to the competence framework agreed with the Parliamentary Assembly in 2012;

Having examined the nine candidatures presented by the Governments of Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey and the United Kingdom;

Having interviewed the candidates at the present meeting (23 and 24 June 2020);

Decided to submit to the Parliamentary Assembly, for appointment to the post of Deputy Secretary General, the following candidatures, listed in alphabetical order, with the names of the sponsoring governments in brackets:

- Mr Bjørn Berge (Norway);
- Mrs Leyla Kayacik (Turkey).

### **III. Candidature of Mr Bjørn Berge**

On 22 January 2020, the Ministers' Deputies (at their 1365th meeting, item 1.6) adopted the timetable for the election procedure of the Deputy Secretary General. The closing date for the submission of candidates was fixed at 2 March 2020.

By letter dated 17 February 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway informed the Secretary General that the Norwegian government proposed the candidature of Mr Bjørn Berge for the post of Deputy Secretary General [see hereinafter].

On 18 February 2020, the Secretary General forwarded this candidature to the Chair of the Ministers' Deputies [see hereinafter].

*Council of Europe*  
*The Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 18 February 2020

Dear President,

In accordance with the Regulations relating to the appointment of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, I hereby forward to you the letter from the Norwegian authorities proposing the candidature of Mr Bjørn Magnus Berge for the post of Deputy Secretary General.

Furthermore, I confirm that I have been consulted beforehand about this proposal and given my assent.

Yours sincerely,



Marija Pejčinović Burić

Ambassador Irakli Giviashvili  
President of the Ministers' Deputies  
Permanent Representative of Georgia  
to the Council of Europe

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**ROYAL NORWEGIAN  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Oslo, 17 February 2020

I refer to the 1365<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 22 January 2020, and the adoption of a timetable for the procedure for the election of the Deputy Secretary General and the call for submission of candidates. On behalf of the Norwegian Government, I am pleased to propose Mr Bjørn Magnus Berge, currently Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers, as candidate for the post of Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Mr Berge is highly qualified for this position, and he has extensive experience that would be of particular relevance to the Council's ongoing reform process.

Please find his curriculum vitae enclosed (in English and French).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ine Eriksen Søreide".

Ine Eriksen Søreide

HE Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić  
Secretary General  
Council of Europe  
Strasbourg

## **Curriculum Vitae Bjorn Berge**

Born on 17 December 1963. Married, four children

### **Work experience**

- February 2017- Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France)
- 2009 -2017 Director  
Private Office of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General  
Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France)
- 2008-2009 Ambassador  
Head of Election Campaign of Norwegian Candidate to the post of Secretary  
General of the Council of Europe (Oslo, Norway)
- 2008 Senior Adviser  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Oslo, Norway)
- 2004-2008 Minister Counselor  
Head of Section for Media and Culture  
Royal Norwegian Embassy (Stockholm, Sweden)
- 2002-2004 Senior Adviser  
Department for International Affairs  
Office of the Prime Minister (Oslo, Norway)
- 2000-2002 Deputy Director and Speechwriter  
Secretariat of the Foreign Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Oslo, Norway)
- 1998-2000 Senior Adviser  
OSCE Chairmanship Unit  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Oslo, Norway)
- 1995-1998 First Secretary  
Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE (Vienna, Austria)
- 1992-1995 Second Secretary  
Royal Norwegian Embassy (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
- 1990-1992 Adviser / Foreign Service Training Program  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Oslo, Norway)

### **Education**

- 1988-1990 M.A. International Relations / Fulbright Scholar  
The Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)  
Johns Hopkins University (Washington D.C., USA)
- 1986-1987 Certificate, Chinese Language and Culture Studies  
Chengdu University of Science and Technology (Chengdu, Sichuan, PRC)
- 1984-1986 B.A. International Relations / Summa cum laude  
Concordia College (Moorhead, Minnesota, USA)

### **Publications**

Several books and articles, primarily on speeches and speech-writing

### **III. Candidature of Ms Leyla Kayacik**

On 22 January 2020, the Ministers' Deputies (at their 1365th meeting, item 1.6) adopted the timetable for the election procedure of the Deputy Secretary General. The closing date for the submission of candidates was fixed at 2 March 2020.

By letter dated 7 February 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey informed the Secretary General that the Turkish government proposed the candidature of Mrs Leyla Kayacik for the post of Deputy Secretary General [see hereinafter].

On 13 February 2020, the Secretary General forwarded this candidature to the Chair of the Ministers' Deputies [see hereinafter].

*Council of Europe*  
*The Secretary General*


Strasbourg, 13 February 2020

Dear President,

In accordance with the Regulations relating to the appointment of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, I hereby forward to you the letter from the Turkish authorities proposing the candidature of Ms Leyla Kayacik for the post of Deputy Secretary General.

Furthermore, I confirm that I have been consulted beforehand about this proposal and given my assent.

Yours sincerely,



Marija Pejčinović Burić

Ambassador Irakli Giviashvili  
President of the Ministers' Deputies  
Permanent Representative of Georgia  
to the Council of Europe

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*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Ankara, 7 February 2020

*Dear Secretary General,*

I have the honour to present herewith, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the candidature of Ms Leyla Kayacık for the post of Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in accordance with the relevant Regulations of the Committee of Ministers, and the decision adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

Throughout her 30-year career in various departments of the Council of Europe, Ms Kayacık has acquired a wide experience and knowledge of the Organisation, including of its internal management.

In view of her personal and professional skills as well as her dedication to the values of the Organisation, it is our firm belief that Ms Kayacık has all the required qualifications to fulfil the post of the Deputy Secretary General as outlined in the framework of competence established by the Committee of Ministers. Further details on her personal and professional skills are enclosed herewith.

Turkey is pleased to present its first ever candidate to this important position as a clear signal of its commitment to this pan-European organisation.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Madame Secretary General, to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
*Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu*

Encl: As stated

**H.E. Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić**  
**Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

## Leyla Kayacik



### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born on 4 January 1959 in Ankara (Turkey). Married, two children

### PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2019 | Deputy Secretary to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe              |
| 2017 | Head of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General |
| 2015 | Senior Adviser to the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General             |
| 2008 | Adviser to the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General                    |
| 2004 | Head of the Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara                             |
| 2003 | Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)         |
| 1994 | Member of the Secretariat of the European Social Charter Department                  |
| 1989 | Member of the Secretariat of the then European Commission of Human Rights            |

### EDUCATION

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1993 | Law Degree at the University of Strasbourg                          |
| 1988 | Degree in English language and literature at the University of Nice |

### LANGUAGES

Fluent in Turkish, French and English

## Biography

Ms Leyla Kayacik is an experienced, long-time member of the Secretariat. She joined the Council of Europe in 1989 as a member of the Secretariat of the former European Commission of Human Rights. In that role, she also took part in the first fact-finding missions to Turkey within the scope of individual applications.

From 1994 to 2004, she served - first as a lawyer then as Deputy Executive Secretary - in the Secretariat of the European Social Charter, a Council of Europe Treaty guaranteeing social rights.

In 2004, she opened the first Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara and was Head of the Office until 2008. She actively contributed to the implementation of joint Council of Europe – European Union programmes related to judiciary and penitentiary reforms. This post enabled her to develop her capacity to have a constructive dialogue with different stakeholders at all levels. She also negotiated and managed the budgetary aspects of these programmes.

In 2008, she was appointed Adviser to the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe on matters related to human rights and the rule of law, with a special focus on the European Court of Human Rights.

In 2015, she became Senior Adviser to the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General. During that appointment, she had the opportunity to focus on monitoring country specific legal and human rights-related activities. She equally gained valuable experience through her active contributions to the reform process of the Organisation.

In February 2017, she was appointed Director of the Private Office. She played a key role in important political and strategic decisions for the Organisation. This posting also proved very valuable in developing high-level contacts with national authorities, successive Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly, parliamentarians, civil society and representatives of other international organisations, especially with the European Union. It also enabled her to consolidate her experience in the internal management of the Organisation, including budgetary and staff matters. She entertained an open and constructive communication with the Staff Committee.

After an 11-year career in the Private Office of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General, Ms Kayacik joined the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in September 2019, as Deputy Secretary to the Committee.

Throughout her career and particularly in recent years, Ms Kayacik became experienced and adept at engaging with a range of stakeholders in order to forge consensus and take decisions as required, even on the most contentious of issues.

Ms Kayacik studied English language and literature at the University of Nice followed by a Master's degree in Law at the University of Strasbourg.

She is fluent in Turkish, French and English.

She is married with two children.