

# PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Progress report – Main activities  
(January – June 2021)

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## Foreword by the President of the Assembly

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Upon my election a year ago, I said that interests divide but values unite. The year 2020 has taught us that in times of crisis and emergency, both interests and values unite. Because upholding democracy, human rights and the rule of law is our shared interest and the way forward to overcome the difficult situation we are facing.

The COVID-19 crisis has brought about unprecedented, multifaceted, wide-ranging and no doubt lasting consequences for the social, economic and political life of our societies. But it has also taught us very valuable lessons on which to draw upon when looking at the challenges ahead of us.

Firstly, we can no longer ignore the intrinsic links between our health and safety and the health of our planet. The right to a safe and clean environment needs to be tackled seriously and a healthy environment, as a human right, should be embedded into solid legal foundations that give it a substantive protection. To achieve this, I shall continue to promote the drafting of an Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Secondly, the global pandemic confirms that the virus knows no geographical or political frontiers. Only by standing united in solidarity will we be able to rise to the immense challenges we are facing. In this regard, multilateralism remains the most effective way to make progress and identify sustainable long-term solutions to face future problems, and to make sure that the health crisis does not turn into a democracy crisis.

Thirdly, the challenges to human rights and fundamental freedoms call for continued vigilance and strengthening of human rights' protection mechanisms which at the moment are under attack in several of our member States. This is the case for example, with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). There is no room for complacency. We need to work harder to uphold the solid human rights standards and their protection systems and counter efforts to undermine them.

We also need to pay due attention to and address the emergence of a new generation of rights, such as the effective protection of human rights in the field of artificial intelligence. Building upon the Council of Europe conventions which set unique and ground-breaking legally binding standards as well as the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, we should continue to provide political support to the drafting of a legally-binding instrument governing the human rights aspects of the use of artificial intelligence.

The challenges are many. They are pressing. And no country is exempt from them. To overcome them, we need to show courage and political leadership, and make effective use of multilateralism and parliamentary diplomacy rooted in agreed equal standards and based on dialogue, trust and mutual respect.

**Rik Daems**  
*President of the Parliamentary Assembly*

# PACE raising to the challenge of the crisis

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**F**ollowing the amendments to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure related to the holding, in exceptional circumstances, of physical, hybrid or fully remote meetings, as well as complementing the Assembly Rules with an exceptional electoral procedure for electing judges to the European Court of Human Rights, the highest officials of the Council, or its own President and Vice-Presidents, the three parts of the 2021 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly were held in a hybrid mode. These were the **first ever hybrid part-sessions organised**. 84 parliamentarians were physically present at the January Session, and 100 for the April Session (130 persons in total including delegations' support staff). Those who could not come to Strasbourg participated by videoconference.

To achieve this, unprecedented administrative, logistical and sanitary measures were put in place, including on-site testing. **Cooperation and strong support by the relevant Council of Europe departments and the French authorities** were very important to the success of the organisation of the three part-sessions.

By holding these sessions, the Assembly members shouldered their responsibilities to continue making the voices of the 830 million European citizens heard; reiterated their commitment to upholding democracy, human rights and the rule of law, even in times of crisis and emergency, when these values are even more relevant than ever; and continued co-operation and dialogue to ultimately deliver the results that citizens and our member States expect.

Some of the highlights of the Assembly's 2021 first and second part-sessions included addresses by the President of the Republic of Moldova, Ms Maia Sandu, the Federal Chancellor of Germany, Ms Angela Merkel, the President of the European Parliament, Mr David Sassoli, and the European Commissioner for Justice, Mr Didier Reynders.

Thanks to quick action in amending the Assembly's Rules of Procedure and the mobilisation of the entire Assembly, we were able to continue **fulfilling the statutory and conventional obligations**. During the January, April and June 2021 part-sessions, the Assembly thus elected:

- ▶ Mr. Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- ▶ Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- ▶ Mr. Ioannis Ktistakis, judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Greece;
- ▶ Mr. Andreas Zünd, judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Switzerland;
- ▶ Mr. Frédéric Krenc, judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Belgium;
- ▶ Mr. Davor Derenčinović, judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Croatia.

As the PACE President mentioned in his speech at the January part-session, the hybrid or remote meetings of the Assembly and its bodies should remain an exceptional measure. Interactive direct exchange, networking and personal contacts between parliamentarians are indeed essential for the **good functioning of parliamentary co-operation and diplomacy** and **meaningful parliamentary dialogue**.

# Addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic on our democratic institutions and fundamental rights

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**D**uring the first half of 2021, the Assembly continued to address the challenges brought by the COVID-19 crisis and its manifold consequences on the social, economic and political life of our societies.

At its January part-session, the PACE approved a wide-ranging report on “COVID-19 vaccines: ethical, legal and practical considerations”, making a series of recommendations for the safe and fair worldwide deployment of vaccines against COVID-19. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, took part in the debate remotely. The PACE also held a current affairs debate on “Covid passports or certificates: protection of fundamental rights and legal implications” at its April part-session and further debates took place at its June part-session, such as the protection of fundamental rights and legal implications of Covid passes or certificates, the impact of the pandemic on children’s rights or the socio-economic crisis sparked by the pandemic.

Speaking after the current affairs debate held at the Standing Committee meeting on 19 March 2021 on “Democracies facing COVID-19: the way forward”, the PACE President recalled that “the rule of law must prevail in the emergency situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic”, and stressed that “any laws linked to the pandemic should comply with the constitution and international standards”. He underlined that while the European Convention on Human Rights allows for extensive restrictions on rights in emergency situations, such restrictions should only be applied when necessary, be proportionate to the public interest being pursued, be time-limited, and have a clear basis in the law. The President urged all member States to conduct independent reviews of their national experience and the compatibility of the national response with European standards. He further stressed that “parliamentary oversight over emergency measures, transparency in decision-making, and proper checks and balances remain essential for the realisation of the rule of law and democracy”. These messages were further reinforced by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the role of the Council of Europe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretary General presented the wide array of support that the Council of Europe has offered to its member States, including advice, knowledge and information sharing, guidance, practical tools as well as material support.

In his address at the online Plenary Session of the St Petersburg International Legal Forum on the theme “Vaccination by Law” (19 May 2021), the President recalled the important work of the Parliamentary Assembly and the legal standards developed by the Council of Europe in this field. He presented the position of the PACE as regards mandatory vaccination as expressed in the Resolution 2361 (2021) on “COVID-19 vaccines: ethical, legal and practical considerations” which was adopted at the first 2021 part-session. The President recalled the importance of awareness-raising, clear, transparent and reliable information and communication when dealing with vaccine hesitancy.

The Parliamentary Assembly will continue to support national parliaments in their efforts to tackle the pandemic and prepare them to face effectively any future crisis.

## Addressing strategic political priorities

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**T**he PACE proposed its vision on the **strategic priorities for the Council of Europe for the coming years** on the occasion of a debate at its April part-session and the discussion on a report prepared by Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) on “The Assembly’s vision on the strategic priorities for the Council of Europe”.

On this occasion, the Assembly underlined that the Council of Europe’s overall priority is to remain the pillar of democratic security, the guarantor of human rights and rule of law, as well as a platform for genuine multilateralism in Europe.

Other strategic priorities included the upholding of the authority of the European Court of Human Rights by all member States and the further improvement of its effectiveness, notably by enhancing the execution of its judgements; EU accession to the European Convention of Human Rights; reinforcing the protection of social and economic rights, equality, inclusion and respect of human dignity; promoting a contemporary and holistic vision of human rights, including the new generation rights and development of “new legal instruments aimed at ensuring the right to a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for present and future generations, and making it a legal obligation”; address increasing challenges to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and providing adequate responses to challenges related to the emergence of new technologies, in particular artificial intelligence.

The Assembly also recalled that while it is a priority for the Assembly to carry out its work independently, opportunities should be seized where possible to build on the principle of “effective complementarity” with the activities of the Committee of Ministers and the intergovernmental part of the organisation.

The Assembly Resolution contributed to the 131<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee of Ministers, which endorsed the strategic outlook of the organisation for the next four years’ work at the Council of Europe, as laid out in the Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The adopted texts were also brought to the attention of the EU bodies responsible for the organisation of the conference on the future of Europe.



## Promoting equality and non-discrimination

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**A**nother priority of the Assembly has been to continue championing equality and promoting the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

The PACE continues to put **strong focus on promoting the ratification and effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention**. Following the announced withdrawal by Turkey from the Istanbul Convention, the PACE President issued a joint statement on 21 March 2021 with the German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Heiko Maas, President of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, expressing deep regret about this decision and calling on the Turkish authorities not to weaken the international system to protect women against violence.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Istanbul Convention, the Assembly organised a high-level event and debate during its June part-session. This event, an initiative of the PACE President, included speeches by: Nadia Murad, winner of the 2016 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize and the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize; Alexander de Croo, Prime Minister of Belgium; Anca Dana Dragu, President of the Romanian Senate; Elisabeth Moreno, French Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities; Dubravka Šimonović, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences; and Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Following the debate, Zita Gurmai, PACE General Rapporteur on violence against women, highlighted the way forward to make progress with the signature, ratification and effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

The PACE President also participated in the opening of the high-level conference on "Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action" organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening for signature of the Istanbul Convention (11 May 2021). In his address, the President stressed the importance of the Istanbul Convention, its tools and mechanisms in order to combat violence against women and girls in a proactive, practically-oriented and efficient way and condemned current deliberate attempts to instrumentalise the Convention for political gains. He specifically asked for the translation of the PACE Handbook for parliamentarians on the Istanbul Convention into the languages of all member States, in order to promote parliamentary action in support of the ratification of the Convention and the monitoring of its implementation more widely.

Furthermore, the Assembly has committed to the Coalition on gender-based violence of the Generation Equality Forum 2021. The Assembly's commitment includes a series of parliamentary actions around the promotion and implementation of the Istanbul Convention by pursuing four areas of action:

1. awareness raising activities with parliamentarians from the 47 member states, Observer and Partner for Democracy countries, highlighting the progress made by the convention in combating violence against women;
2. training for parliamentarians on action to be taken both in their constituencies and in their parliaments, involving improvement of the understanding of the added value of the Istanbul Convention and eliminating misconceptions about it;

3. promotion of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and its full implementation in member States, by proposing action to be taken in parliaments, including through legislation, in application of Article 70 of the convention which provides for active monitoring of its implementation by national parliaments and the Parliamentary Assembly;
4. dissemination of the convention in global forums by raising awareness and sharing good practices, as well as tools to combat violence and protect the right to live free from violence;

The Handbook for parliamentarians on the Istanbul Convention provides a very useful tool for the design and implementation of the PACE activities in this regard.

The **2020 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**, which rewards outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights in Europe and beyond, was awarded to **Ms Loujain Alhathloul (Saudi Arabia)**, a Saudi women's rights activist who has campaigned to end the male guardianship system and the Saudi ban on women driving, and for greater protection for women facing abuse in the Kingdom. The two other shortlisted candidates were The Nuns of the Drukpa Order (Nepal), a group of young Buddhist nuns who promote equality, sustainability and tolerance in their home villages in the Himalayas, and Ms Julienne Lusenge (Democratic Republic of Congo), a human rights activist who has been documenting sexual abuse and acts of violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



# Intra-institutional relations within the Council of Europe: enhancing the “trialogue” dynamic

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**S**trengthening **trialogue consultations** as a useful tool to coordinate and mutually reinforce the activities and the work of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General, especially in response to major political challenges, remains a priority for the Assembly and its President.

The PACE adopted a resolution at its January part-session, on the basis of the report by Sir Edward Leigh (United Kingdom, EC/AD), deciding to amend its Rules of Procedure to enable the implementation of a complementary **joint procedure** between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly in response to a serious violation by a member State of its statutory obligations, as decided by PACE in January 2020 in its Resolution 2319 (2020). These changes concern the conditions for initiating and dealing with such a procedure, as well as the conditions for voting on an Assembly decision initiating this procedure.

The PACE President took part in the **131st Session of the Committee of Ministers** in Hamburg, which took place in hybrid mode, marking the transition from the German to the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. In his speech, the President welcomed the increased dialogue and co-operation between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly. He congratulated the German Presidency for the achievements of their Presidency, notably progress with the preparation of human rights standards in the area of artificial intelligence, work towards compliance with the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, combating discrimination, inequality and hate speech, upholding women’s rights and promoting the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention and its importance in ending gender-based violence. He also welcomed the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and reiterated the commitment of the Parliamentary Assembly to continue close cooperation and coordination, built on the added value of the Council of Europe institutions and thus increase the impact of the work of the organisation.

The Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers, the President of the Assembly and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe issued joint statements on issues of concern to the organisation such as their joint statement on 4 February 2021, calling upon the Russian authorities to abide by the international obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights or the announced withdrawal by Turkey from the Istanbul Convention on 21 March 2021.

The PACE President held regular **trialogue consultations** with the Chairperson of the Ministers’ Deputies and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe during the first semester of 2021, and the Assembly will continue working within the triologue logic, seeking better co-ordination between the statutory bodies and the Secretary General regarding political issues as well as the strategic priorities of the Council of Europe.

## Relations with national parliaments and international partners

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**F**urther developing and strengthening relations with national parliaments and international partners remains a priority for the Assembly.

During this period, national parliaments continued to organise **hearings on the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic**, focusing on issues where the Council of Europe could bring valuable expertise. The PACE President intervened by videoconference in the hearing organised on 16 April 2021 by the Parliament of Cyprus, on the theme “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education and culture”, two sectors of utmost relevance and importance for the organisation of life in democratic societies. Other speakers from the PACE were Mr Nicos Tornaritis, Chairperson of the PACE Cyprus delegation, and Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, PACE Rapporteur on “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education and culture” for the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media.

The importance of continued co-operation based on trust, respect and partnership, shared values and equal standards were also the topics of discussions of the **working visits of the PACE President to the Russian Federation, Turkey and Hungary**. On these occasions, the PACE President stressed the relevance of dialogue, multilateralism and co-operation based on equal standards to overcome challenges and make progress at national and international level.

The exchange of views with Mr Didier Reynders, European Commissioner for Justice, at the January part-session provided an opportunity to discuss synergies between the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Commission in the field of justice and the rule of law, focusing in particular on the preparation of the annual Rule of Law Report of the European Commission.

Intervening at the April part-session, the President of the European Parliament Mr David Sassoli warned that the values that guide the EU and the Council of Europe are not indestructible and called for strengthened cooperation between the two institutions to uphold respect for human rights and democratic principles. The EU’s accession to the European Convention on Human Rights will contribute to further strengthening such links.

The EU’s accession to the ECHR was also mentioned during the bilateral meeting between the PACE President and the EP President on 8 June 2021 where the President further reiterated the strategic priority of the completion of the accession of the European Union to the ECHR for both organisations. On this occasion, ways of further implementing the 2007 Agreement on the strengthening of co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament were also discussed.

The PACE President participated in the informal retreat of Heads of Mission of EU member States at the Council of Europe (5 March 2021). In his intervention, he focused on the challenges that multilateral co-operation is facing and stressed the importance of synergies and the strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union, both value-based organisations working to uphold democracy, human rights and the rule of law. He emphasised the importance of the Council of Europe Convention system, in particular the European Convention on Human Rights, in this regard.

The Assembly continued to develop further the co-operation with international parliamentary assemblies. The PACE President participated in the remote international parliamentary conference on “Global challenges and threats in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: terrorism and violent extremism”, co-organised by the PACE, the

Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean as well as the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism on 15 April 2021. In his opening statement, the PACE President stressed the importance of stepping up international and inter-parliamentary co-operation to confront international terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation. The PACE organised and moderated a specific session devoted to “Democracies facing the COVID-19 Pandemic”, addressing the themes of “Challenges to Parliaments in COVID times”, “Upholding Human Rights in times of crisis and pandemics: gender, equality and non-discrimination”, “Humanitarian consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for migrant and refugees” and “COVID-19 vaccines: ethical, legal and practical considerations”, with the participation of many Chairpersons and members of PACE committees or sub-committees.

The PACE President held a videoconference with the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Ms Odile Renaud-Basso, to take stock of ongoing cooperation with the EBRD over the past 30 years which include the use of Council of Europe standards as benchmarks and progress indicators for the purposes of EBRD’s assessments.

## Conclusions – the way forward

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**F**or the most part of its work and activities in-between the January and June part sessions, the Assembly continued to operate remotely. It has further fine-tuned its working methods to make sure we continue to deliver on the political mandate that has been entrusted to us by our fellow citizens and support national parliaments in their work at national level. The focus has also been to make sure that the sanitary crisis does not turn into a democracy crisis.

PACE will continue to pay attention to the implementation of its political and thematic priorities in the second half of 2021, such as violence against women and girls and the promotion of the Istanbul Convention, artificial intelligence and the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment will take central stage in all the work and activities of the Assembly including during the forthcoming European Conference of Speakers of Parliament on 21-22 October 2021 in Athens.

The triologue format will continue to guide institutional cooperation and coordination. Cooperation with the current Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and the forthcoming Italian Presidency, will be guided by working together towards the implementation of their priorities.

# APPENDIX I – LIST OF STATEMENTS January-June 2021

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- 17/06/2021** | PACE President, addressing new UN global network for parliamentarians, recalls need to uphold human rights when combating terrorism
- 11/06/2021** | PACE President tells ministers: 'We need to regulate AI before AI regulates us'
- 05/06/2021** | PACE President on World Environment Day: now is the time for a right to a healthy environment
- 02/06/2021** | PACE President, ending Budapest visit, welcomes opportunities presented by the Hungarian Council of Europe Presidency
- 25/05/2021** | PACE President to make working visit to Budapest
- 19/05/2021** | "Vaccination strategies are only lawful if proportionate", President says
- 11/05/2021** | PACE President: member States need to rely on the Istanbul Convention, its tools and mechanisms
- 09/05/2021** | Video message by PACE President on the occasion of Europe Day
- 05/05/2021** | Europe Day: a moment to reaffirm the values Europe needs for challenging times
- 04/05/2021** | PACE President: Assembly members will not be restricted in the exercise of their mandate
- 19/04/2021** | A minute of silence in memory of Cheryl Gillan
- 06/04/2021** | President pays tribute to Dame Cheryl Gillan
- 01/04/2021** | PACE President, ending visit to Turkey, emphasises need to work together to make progress ('ilerleme')
- 21/03/2021** | Council of Europe leaders react to Turkey's announced withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention
- 19/03/2021** | PACE President: the rule of law must prevail in the emergency situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic
- 17/03/2021** | Multilateralism is imperative to tackle challenges at national and international level
- 15/03/2021** | All member States should play by the same rules, based on equal standards
- 04/02/2021** | Alexei Navalny: Council of Europe leaders urge Russia to respect its human rights obligations
- 25/01/2021** | Rik Daems, re-elected President, invites members to see PACE as vehicle for upholding shared values
- 22/01/2021** | The President presents the 2020 progress report and thematic priorities for 2021
- 07/01/2021** | President reacts to 'assault on democracy' at the US Capitol: 'who does not speak up, consents'

## APPENDIX II – PRESS REVIEW

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### **PACE President Rik Daems**

#### **Selected media coverage listing (January to June 2021) from Council of Europe Press review**

1. Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly sets conditions so that Covid 'passes' respect fundamental rights  
[24-06-2021] Agence Europe
2. Announcements of new ratifications of Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women  
[24-06-2021] Agence Europe
3. Dieci anni dalla convenzione Istanbul, 'salva vite delle donne'  
[23-06-2021] ANSA
4. La premio Nobel Murad pide no mirar a otro lado ante la violencia machista  
[23-06-2021] EFE / Diaro Libre
5. Consiglio d'Europa: Risoluzione Rampi, "diritto alla conoscenza" per piena partecipazione democratica  
[23-06-2021] SIR
6. PACE to mark 10th anniversary of Istanbul Convention at its summer session  
[21-06-2021] Panorama
7. PACE seeks solutions to post-pandemic situation  
[21-06-2021] Baltic Daily
8. CoE Parlt Assembly head holds talks in Hungary  
[29-05-2021] MTI
9. Justice minister: Hungarian CoE presidency priorities 'given green light'  
[28-05-2021] MTI, Budapest Times
10. Une réponse du Conseil de l'Europe à Ankara  
[11-05-2021] La Libre Belgique
11. Europa: Daems (presidente Apce), tre lezioni dalla pandemia per affrontare il futuro: salute-natura, solidarietà, lavoro multilaterale  
[06-05-2021]
12. Istanbul Convention will be focus of our June plenary, says Rik Daems  
[06-05-2021] Agence Europe
13. PACE to participate in observation of State Duma elections, Speaker says  
[20-04-2021] TASS
14. Consiglio d'Europa: premio per i diritti umani a Loujain Alhathloul, leader movimento femminista in Arabia Saudita  
[20-04-2021] SIR

15. Maia Sandu, prima întrevedere în cadrul vizitei la Strasbourg. Ce a discutat cu președintele APCE [20-04-2021] Cotidianul
16. Președintele Maia Sandu s-a întâlnit, la Strasbourg, cu președintele APCE, Hendrik Daems [20-04-2021] MOLDPRES
17. Turkish FM meets Council of Europe's parliament head [01-04-2021] Anadolu Agency , Daily Sabah
18. AKPM Başkanı Daems'ın Türkiye ziyaretinde neler konuşuldu? [31-03-2021] Cumhuriyet
19. 3 Questions à Rik Daems [22-03-2021] La Libre Belgique
20. Lavrov confirms Russia's readiness for dialogue with the Council of Europe [19-03-2021] TASS
21. PACE president supports idea of sending observers to Russian parliamentary election [16-03-2021] TASS
22. PACE President Begins His Moscow Visit On Monday [15-03-2021] Sputnik
23. PACE president plans to meet with Lavrov, Russian parliament speakers next week [10-03-2021] TASS
24. State Duma Speaker to meet with PACE President in Moscow on March 15 [01-03-2021] TASS
25. PACE monitors, European Parliament members call on Georgian parties to de-escalate political tension [25-02-2021] Agenda.ge
26. Interview with Rik Daems, President of the Assembly [16-02-2021] Radio Centre-Ville
27. Strasbourg La première session depuis une année au Conseil de l'Europe [27-01-2021] DNA
28. Russian lawmakers ready to discuss Navalny-related topics with PACE president in Moscow [27-01-2021] TASS
29. Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) voted for the re-election of current President of the organization, Belgian Senator Hendrik Daems [25-01-2021] Arminfo
30. El belga Rik Daems, reelegido presidente de la Asamblea del Consejo de Europa [25-01-2021] EFE, SwissInfo, La Vanguardia
31. Women In Action: Candidates for 2020 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize [10-01-2021] Brno Daily







**[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)**

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. The Parliamentary Assembly, consisting of representatives from the 47 national parliaments, provides a forum for debate and proposals on Europe's social and political issues. Many Council of Europe conventions originate from the Assembly, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

