



*Council of Europe
Parliamentary Assembly*

The President

Strasbourg, 13 April 2022

Dear President,

On behalf of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and in my personal capacity, I would like to convey our deepest condolences following the passing away of our former President and dear colleague, Ms Leni Fischer.

Not only a committed defender of democracy, rule of law and human rights but also an inspirational woman, she will be remembered as a remarkable member of the Parliamentary Assembly, where she held the prestigious functions of President from 1996 to 1999, being the first woman elected to this post. Ms Fischer was also the author of numerous reports, upholding the democratic values, collegiality and the principles of parliamentarism which our Assembly stands for. Her contribution had been highly appreciated and valued by the members of the Assembly.

Among the numerous achievements of Ms Fischer, we will remember her statement at the 2nd Summit of the Council of Europe, in October 1997, a historic Summit of the Organisation whose decisions shaped the future of Europe. On that occasion, she declared: "Europe is an imposing construction, but it needs a solid foundation. This foundation is provided by democracy and human rights in a pluralist society governed by the rule of law. These are the principles defended by the Council of Europe". Her words then are more actual than ever, and we feel committed to continuing on the path Ms Fischer initiated.

I should be grateful if you would convey my most sincere condolences to Ms Leni Fischer's loved ones and to all our friends in the German Bundestag and the German Delegation to the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Tiny Kox

H.E. Ms Bärbel Bas
President
German Bundestag

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