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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 25 January 2018

- 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. 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 and their terms of reference, reorganising plenary sittings, with trimming of the agenda, improving the planning and grouping of committee meetings outside part-sessions.
5. The last modifications made to the Rules of Procedure in 2015 led to the setting up of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights and to the increase to eighteen of the number of seats allocated to the Turkish parliamentary delegation (as from the June 2015 part-session); in 2016 and 2017, some committees have increased the number of their seats (Monitoring Committee to 94 seats, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to 92 seats, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to 91 seats and the Committee on Rules of Procedure to 39 seats) since the chairpersons of political groups as well as the immediate past President have been granted the status of ex officio members.
6. It is recalled that the Russian Federation decided not to present the credentials of its parliamentary delegation for the whole 2012 session. This has been duly taken into account in the analysis of statistics mentioned in this document concerning the participation in plenary sessions and in committee meetings. As a reminder, in 2015, the Russian parliamentary delegation decided to no longer take part in the work of the Assembly and its committees, following the adoption of Resolution 2034 on 28 January 2015, by which the Assembly deprived members of the Russian delegation of their right to vote and some rights of representation and participation.

2. Statistics

2.1. *Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in plenary sessions*

7. Statistics on the level of participation of national delegations for the four 2017 part-sessions (see Appendix I) show that the overall average level of participation of the members of the 46 delegations was 56.17% (it was 55.59% in 2016, 55.60% in 2015, 55.08% in 2014, 57.84% in 2013, 56.45% in 2012, 57.99% in 2011, 58.76% in 2010, 58.23% in 2009 and 56.92% in 2008). Participation rates were over 50% for all the part-sessions, with the highest level at the January part-session (60.51%) as in the previous seven years.
8. 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.
9. A survey of the level of participation of the national delegations in the 2017 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% (Switzerland with 97.69%, Liechtenstein with 94.44%, Andorra with 93.06%, Sweden with 85.65%, Lithuania with 82.64% and Latvia with 80.56%). Six delegations were in this situation last year (eight in 2015, six in 2014, seven in 2013, eight in 2012 and seven in 2011). However, 17 of the 46 delegations' average participation rates are less than 50% (the figure was 15 in 2016 and 2015, 17 in 2014, 11 in 2013, 17 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 13 in 2010, 17 in 2009 and in 2008).
10. 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:

- “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (3.70% – and not a single representative at the January, April and October part-sessions; the rate was also less than 50% in 2015, 2014, 2012 and 2011)
- Montenegro (12.96%; 35.19% in 2016 – and not a single representative at the April and October part-sessions)
- Albania (27.78%; 40.97% in 2016, 36.11% in 2005, 38.19% in 2014, 13.89% in 2013, 34.03% in 2012 and 36.11% in 2011)
- Germany (27.93%; 43.05% in 2016, 42.90% in 2015, 35.65% in 2014, 37.50% in 2013, 43.67% in 2012 and 44.91% in 2011)
- Bulgaria (30.56% – and not a single representative at the April part-session; 39.81% in 2016, 36.11% in 2015, 25.93% in 2014, 38.89% in 2013)
- Iceland (30.56% – and not a single representative at the January and October part-sessions)
- Slovenia (31.48%; the rate was also less than 50% in 2016, 2014, 2012 and 2008)
- Malta (37.04% – and not a single representative at the June part-session; 26.85% in 2016, 33.33% in 2015 and 2014, 40.74% in 2013 and 30.56% in 2012)
- Monaco (40.28%; the rate was also less than 50% in 2016, 2015 and 2014)
- Austria (42.59%)
- Serbia (42.86%; and not a single representative at the June part-session)
- Denmark (44.44%; 43.33% in 2016, 30.56% in 2015, 32.78% in 2014, 43.89% in 2013, 37.78% in 2012 and 32.22% in 2011)
- Georgia (45%; 41.11% in 2016)
- Croatia (47.22%; 17.22% in 2016)
- Italy (49.38% – the rate was also less than 50% in 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2011)
- Spain (49.54%)
- and United Kingdom (49.69%; 49.69% in 2016 and 49.54% in 2015).

11. Looking at the last seven years, it is worth noting that some delegations have a consistently high level of participation (Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Armenia, Lithuania, Finland, Turkey, Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia), while conversely others have a low or very low level of participation over the long term (Albania, Denmark, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Malta, Germany, Georgia, the Slovak Republic, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania).

12. It is also a matter of concern that the participation level of some large delegations (Germany, Italy and United Kingdom) remains consistently below the expected 50%. Germany’s average participation level between 2008 and 2017 was 41.78% and Italy’s was 49.38%, while two other large delegations with 18 members (France and Turkey) consistently achieve regular higher participation levels over the same period (France’s average participation level between 2008 and 2017 was 64.04% and Turkey’s 73.42%).

13. Moreover, it shall be noted that almost none of the delegations which had a participation rate less than 50% in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 or 2012 was able to curb the trend on the long-term, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Portugal and Ukraine being the exceptions. In 2017, the level of participation of Hungary, Ireland, Romania and the Slovak Republik also improved, going above the 50% threshold.

2.2. *Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in voting at plenary sessions*

14. 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 2017, the participation rate of Assembly members in votes in plenary sittings was 34.38% (it was 32.43% in 2016, 36.35% in 2015, 34.25% in 2014, 36.78% in 2013, 30.38% in 2012, 26.62% in 2011, 23.89% in 2010, 28.70% in 2009 and 29.37% in 2008). One cannot hide the fact that nearly seven in ten signatories do not take part in votes during the sittings for which they have registered.

15. Eleven delegations out of 46 had a participation rate of over 50% in votes (the figure was eight in 2016, thirteen in 2015, ten in 2014 and 2013, seven in 2012, four in 2011 and 2010, seven in 2009 and six in 2008): placed on top were the Liechtenstein (two seats and 92.21%) and the same three delegations in 2016, 2015 and 2014, i.e. Switzerland (six seats and 87.81%), Sweden (six seats and 84.17%) and Andorra (two seats and 83.67%).

16. The fact that 14 delegations' participation rates in votes were less than 25% may be seen as a positive trend (compared to 22 delegations in 2016, 15 in 2015, 17 in 2014, but only 6 in 2013, 22 in 2013, 25 in 2011, 27 in 2010, 24 in 2009 and 23 in 2008). The worst results – with rates below 15% – were those of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Malta, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Albania Portugal and Croatia (0.34%, 2.51%, 7.04%, 11.01%, 11.37%, 14.43%, 14.71% respectively)² (see appendix II).

17. 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 more than 80% since 2013, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 4.70% in 2015 to 45.88% in 2016, Liechtenstein from 38.65% in 2014 to 92.21% in 2017; Monaco from 8.53% in 2015 to 55.43% in 2017). Some delegations have made efforts (Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic).

18. Conversely other delegations have failed to sustain the efforts made over the past years (Belgium, Republic of Moldova, Norway, San Marino, Turkey) whereas the declining trend has become even worse in some others (Germany, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Serbia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and United Kingdom).

19. Between 2008 and 2017 18 delegations have an average participation rate of less than 25% (Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”).

20. 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 same delegations in votes.³ 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 debated.

21. As to individual voting, 43 members of the Assembly took part, on average, in more than 50% of the votes during the 2017 session (compared to 44 in 2016, 59 in 2015, 57 in 2014, 58 in 2013, 44 in 2012, 33 in 2011, 24 in 2010, 37 in 2009 and 31 in 2008).

22. During the 2017 session, the Assembly adopted 80 texts.⁴ 23 of the 59 texts adopted at plenary sessions were voted on by over 100 members on their final adoption (35%). This is encouraging compared to previous statistics (32% in 2016, 35% in 2015, 30% in 2014, 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 the “Recognition and implementation of the principle of accountability in the Parliamentary Assembly” (197 votes cast).⁵ The next most successful were the texts on “The functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey” (170 votes cast) “Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate” (156 votes cast) and on Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe: what follow-up on respect for human rights? (152 votes).

² Among the 14 delegations concerned are also Ireland, Serbia, Romania, Germany, Monaco, United Kingdom and San Marino.

³ For example, the Armenian delegation's participation rate in the 2017 session was 70.14%, and its participation rate in voting was 25.57% only. The same applies to Ireland (69.44% and 15.26%), Latvia (80.56% and 29.82%), and Portugal (62.30% and 14.43%).

⁴ 65 of these were adopted at Assembly part-sessions and 15 at Standing Committee meetings. In 2016, the Assembly adopted 71 texts (59 of which at plenary sessions); in 2015, 83 texts (64 of which at plenary sessions), in 2014, 92 texts (73 of which at plenary sessions); in 2013, 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).

⁵ The “record” is still 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). Other “records” include the 2015 debate on the “Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation” (213 votes cast), the 2012 debate on the honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation (209 votes cast) and the debate on the “Inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water” (209 votes cast).

23. 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 migratory crisis; the situation in some member states or states on Europe's borders; the honouring of obligations and commitments by member States) or subjects related to the protection of specific human rights.

24. However, many reports debated do not seem to achieve the expected level of interest among Assembly members. For instance, more than one in two texts were adopted with the votes of less than a quarter of Assembly members (35 of 65 texts – i.e. 53% – 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.⁶

2.3. *Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in meetings of general Assembly committees*

25. 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.

26. 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.*"

[* 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.]

27. 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.

28. 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*

29. In 2017, the nine Assembly committees held a total of 72 meetings,⁷ some committees having held one meeting more compared to 2016.

30. The overall level of participation of Assembly members in the Assembly's nine committees in 2017 was 49.68% (the rate was 52.78% in 2016, 52.74% in 2015; for the then eight committees it was 53.17% in 2014, 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).

31. With more specific regard to the participation of national delegations in the meetings of the six committees where they are represented, the overall participation also drops off (50.44%; 53.67% in 2016, 50.77% in 2015, 53.78% in 2014, 54.14% in 2013 and 56% in 2012, although it is well above the level before the reform of the Assembly in 2011, with 45.82% and 2010 with 44.71%) (see Appendix III).

⁶ In 2016, 27 of 59 texts (46%) were adopted with less than 80 votes – 31 of 64 texts (48%) in 2015, 36 of 73 texts (49%) in 2014, 30 of 64 texts (47%) in 2013, 32 of 58 texts (55%) in 2012, 40 of 74 texts (54%) in 2011. In 2016, 16 texts were adopted by less than 50 votes (17%) during plenary sessions (17% in 2015, 24% in 2014, 20% in 2013, 27% in 2012, 19% in 2011, and 32% in 2010).

⁷ In 2016, they held 70 meetings and 67 in 2015. The eight committees established before 2015 held 61 meetings in 2014, 66 in 2013 and 63 in 2012.

32. Thirteen delegations have average rates of participation in all committee meetings below 33% (they were 10 in 2016, 9 in 2015, 8 in 2014, 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 less than 5%,⁸
- Slovenia, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Albania and the Slovak Republic, with a rate of 25% or less;
- Malta, Bulgaria, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, Germany, Estonia and Iceland, with a rate of less than 33%.

33. 22 of the 46 delegations achieved average participation rates of 50% or more (23 in 2016, 27 in 2015, 29 in 2014, 27 in 2013, 29 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 25 in 2009 and 20 in 2008). However seven delegations – Switzerland, Armenia, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Luxembourg – had averages of over 70% (six achieved the same good result in 2016, four in 2015, nine in 2014 and 2013, eleven delegations in 2012, but only two in 2011).

34. The national delegations’ levels of participation in committee meetings vary greatly;⁹ however, on the whole delegations made real efforts to ensure a better participation in the activities of committees.

35. In 2017, less than half of the committee meetings were held in Strasbourg (33 meetings out of 72). As in previous years, participation levels were better for meetings in Strasbourg (62.51%) than for meetings in Paris (30.84%) or elsewhere (28.61%).¹⁰ 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.

36. The Assembly committees held 31 meetings in Paris in 2017 (compared to 26 meetings in 2016 and in 2015, 22 in 2014 and 21 in 2013) and 8 meetings outside France (8 meetings, compared to 8 meetings in 2016 and 2015, 7 in 2014, 13 in 2013, 7 in 2012).

37. However, some delegations only took part in meetings held during the part-sessions in Strasbourg (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, San Marino), while several other delegations clearly gave precedence to meetings in Strasbourg, attending certain committee

⁸ The Macedonian delegation participated in only one committee meeting during the year (Political Affairs Committee meeting in June).

⁹ In 2017:

- the Albanian delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination,
- the delegation of Denmark in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development,
- the delegations of Estonia and Malta in any of the meetings of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination,
- the delegation of Liechtenstein in any of the meetings of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination,
- the Moldovan delegation in any of the meetings of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights,
- the delegation of Montenegro in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination,
- the delegation of the Slovak Republic in any of the meetings of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination,
- the delegation of Slovenia in any of the meetings of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media.

¹⁰ The “attractiveness” of meetings in Paris may be questioned, since members’ interest in participating thereto is clearly declining over the past five years, compared to an average of 34.75% in 2016, 35.05% in 2015, 38.82% in 2014, 42.22% in 2013 and 45.32% in 2012. The same can be said for meetings in places other than Paris or Strasbourg: 37.49% in 2016, 35.29% in 2015, 41.81% in 2014, 39.41% in 2013 and 37.07% in 2012.

meetings in Paris or elsewhere more occasionally (Albania, Andorra, Cyprus, Czech Republic Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia).

38. 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 committee¹¹

39. 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 2017 as in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013 (see Appendix VI).

40. As to the level of participation by committee, only four committees out of nine recorded an overall figure of over 50% (compared to seven committees in 2016, five in 2015, six in 2014 and 2013 and seven in 2012).

41. The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy had the highest participation rate (55.69%). Next came the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (53.22%), the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (52.31%), the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (51.82%), the Monitoring Committee (48.03%), the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (47.22%), the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (47.22%), the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (45.99%), and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional (45.39%).¹²

3. Possible explanations

42. Every year for the last nine 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, since the 2007 report on "Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings" (see explanatory memorandum, Doc. 11295; paras. 31 to 41) and through the information memoranda presented since 2008.¹³ As it has already pointed out, some caution is required when interpreting raw statistics, which take no account in themselves of the valid reasons explaining parliamentarians' absence.

43. 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.

44. 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 2008 global financial and economic crisis 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.

45. 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² There are no alternate members in the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs.

¹³ See documents AS/Pro (2008) 13, AS/Pro (2009) 21, AS/Pro (2010) 21, AS/Pro (2012) 02, AS/Pro (2013) 02, AS/Pro (2014) 03, AS/Pro (2015) 02, AS/Pro (2016) 03 and AS/Pro (2017) 03.

46. 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 2017 were in an election year ((Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Iceland, Malta and the United Kingdom). 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 (Armenia, France, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway and Czech Republic).

47. 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.¹⁴

4. Conclusions

48. Statistics on delegations' participation in Assembly sessions, in votes and in committee meetings have evened out at a reasonable level, but this does not offer sufficient grounds for satisfaction: the relatively low participation rate of members in votes shows a sometimes somewhat minimal interest in Assembly debates. When delegations give their reasons for poor participation, systematic reference is made to budgetary restrictions. Some small delegations also point to the fact that their members cannot ensure regular participation in all the meetings of all the committees.

49. The low participation of members of national delegations in voting at plenary sessions weakens the Assembly's political influence, in particular vis-à-vis the Committee of Ministers (or even 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. The Assembly therefore lays itself open to criticism from the Ministers' Deputies, who are less inclined to give a positive follow-up to its proposals.

50. 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), what conclusions might be drawn from the analysis of the statistics on delegations' participation.

51. 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 – 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”) 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, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Georgia, Iceland, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and the United Kingdom; and

. the 13 delegations affected by the measure planned under Rule 44.10 (average participation rate in committee meetings below 33%): Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Iceland,

¹⁴ 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. In 2016 the Irish delegation sent its credentials beyond the statutory deadline; in 2015 this was the case with regard to the British delegation.

Liechtenstein, Malta, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”.

- Moreover, the committee suggests that the statistics related to the participation of national delegations be made publicly available on the Assembly’s website.

APPENDIX I

Participation of national delegations in the Assembly part-sessions in 2017

Country	Number of members	Average presence (signatures) January 2017	Average presence (signatures) April 2017	Average presence (signatures) June 2017	Average presence (signatures) October 2017	Average presence (signatures) 2017	Rank
Albania	4	25,00%	8,33%	33,33%	44,44%	27,78%	44
Andorra	2	94,44%	94,44%	83,33%	100,00%	93,06%	3
Armenia	4	55,56%	58,33%	77,78%	88,89%	70,14%	14
Austria	6	53,70%	44,44%	27,78%	44,44%	42,59%	37
Azerbaijan	6	70,37%	83,33%	70,37%	77,78%	75,46%	10
Belgium	7	68,25%	65,08%	57,14%	60,32%	62,70%	19
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	57,78%	71,11%	46,67%	53,33%	57,22%	24
Bulgaria	6	20,37%	0,00%	48,15%	53,70%	30,56%	41
Croatia	5	48,89%	48,89%	51,11%	40,00%	47,22%	33
Cyprus	2	83,33%	83,33%	77,78%	72,22%	79,17%	7
Czech Republic	7	84,13%	63,49%	84,13%	68,25%	75,00%	11
Denmark	5	57,78%	44,44%	42,22%	33,33%	44,44%	35
Estonia	3	77,78%	40,74%	66,67%	48,15%	58,33%	22
Finland	5	62,22%	71,11%	66,67%	77,78%	69,44%	16
France	18	60,49%	52,47%	43,83%	61,11%	54,48%	27
Georgia	5	55,56%	48,89%	48,89%	26,67%	45,00%	34
Germany	18	32,10%	29,63%	15,43%	34,57%	27,93%	43
Greece	7	66,67%	50,79%	39,68%	46,03%	50,79%	28
Hungary	7	66,67%	58,73%	41,27%	58,73%	56,35%	25
Iceland	3	0,00%	59,26%	62,96%	0,00%	30,56%	41
Ireland	4	80,56%	80,56%	66,67%	50,00%	69,44%	16
Italy	18	58,02%	52,47%	49,38%	37,65%	49,38%	32
Latvia	3	77,78%	74,07%	85,19%	85,19%	80,56%	6
Liechtenstein	2	77,78%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	94,44%	2
Lithuania	4	100,00%	91,67%	91,67%	47,22%	82,64%	5
Luxembourg	3	92,59%	88,89%	77,78%	37,04%	74,07%	12
Malta	3	37,04%	25,93%	0,00%	85,19%	37,04%	39
Republic of Moldova	5	97,78%	55,56%	71,11%	62,22%	71,67%	13
Monaco	2	33,33%	55,56%	33,33%	38,89%	40,28%	38
Montenegro	3	29,63%	0,00%	22,22%	0,00%	12,96%	45
Netherlands	7	66,67%	80,95%	61,90%	55,56%	66,27%	18
Norway	5	66,67%	95,56%	77,78%	62,22%	75,56%	9
Poland	12	51,85%	87,04%	75,93%	64,81%	69,91%	15
Portugal	7	71,43%	79,37%	36,51%	61,90%	62,30%	21
Romania	10	62,22%	57,78%	42,22%	67,78%	57,50%	23
Russian Federation	-	-	-	-	-	-	
San Marino	2	66,67%	83,33%	27,78%	72,22%	62,50%	20
Serbia	7	58,73%	50,79%	0,00%	61,90%	42,86%	36
Slovak Republic	5	75,56%	44,44%	80,00%	0,00%	50,00%	29
Slovenia	3	18,52%	37,04%	29,63%	40,74%	31,48%	40
Spain	12	65,74%	51,85%	37,04%	43,52%	49,54%	31
Sweden	6	81,48%	87,04%	94,44%	79,63%	85,65%	4
Switzerland	6	94,44%	96,30%	100,00%	100,00%	97,69%	1
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	3	0,00%	0,00%	14,81%	0,00%	3,70%	46

Turkey	18	43,83%	46,91%	69,75%	59,26%	54,94%	26
Ukraine	12	80,56%	67,59%	77,78%	85,19%	77,78%	8
United Kingdom	18	71,60%	33,33%	36,42%	57,41%	49,69%	30
	305	60,51%	56,07%	52,75%	55,34%	56,17%	

APPENDIX II**Participation of national delegations in voting at the Assembly part-sessions in 2017**

Country	Votes cast in 2017	Seats		Rank
Albania	181	4	11,37%	42
Andorra	666	2	83,67%	4
Armenia	407	4	25,57%	31
Austria	777	6	32,54%	22
Azerbaijan	827	6	34,63%	20
Belgium	1046	7	37,54%	18
Bosnia and Herzegovina	913	5	45,88%	14
Bulgaria	263	6	11,01%	43
Croatia	294	5	14,77%	40
Cyprus	417	2	52,39%	11
Czech Republic	1496	7	53,70%	9
Denmark	764	5	38,39%	17
Estonia	484	3	40,54%	15
Finland	1108	5	55,68%	7
France	2155	18	30,08%	26
Georgia	515	5	25,88%	29
Germany	1472	18	20,55%	36
Greece	853	7	30,62%	25
Hungary	722	7	25,92%	28
Iceland	308	3	25,80%	30
Ireland	243	4	15,26%	39
Italy	2290	18	31,97%	23
Latvia	356	3	29,82%	27
Liechtenstein	734	2	92,21%	1
Lithuania	1034	4	64,95%	5
Luxembourg	743	3	62,23%	6
Malta	30	3	2,51%	45
Republic of Moldova	1103	5	55,43%	8
Monaco	165	2	20,73%	35
Montenegro	84	3	7,04%	44
Netherlands	1014	7	36,40%	19
Norway	1052	5	52,86%	10
Poland	2273	12	47,59%	13
Portugal	402	7	14,43%	41
Romania	802	10	20,15%	37
Russian Federation		–	–	
San Marino	183	2	22,99%	33
Serbia	534	7	19,17%	38
Slovak Republic	679	5	34,12%	21
Slovenia	302	3	25,29%	32
Spain	1487	12	31,13%	24
Sweden	2010	6	84,17%	3
Switzerland	2097	6	87,81%	2
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	4	3	0,34%	46
Turkey	3439	18	48,00%	12
Ukraine	1866	12	39,07%	16
United Kingdom	1509	18	21,06%	34
Total	42103	305	34,68%	

APPENDIX III

Participation in committee meetings in 2017 (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
N° of meetings in 2017		9	8	9	8	8	8		
Albania	1	6	0	1	4	0	0	22,00%	42
Andorra	1	4	5	4	4	4	5	52,00%	19
Armenia	1	9	6	7	6	7	4	78,00%	2
Austria	2	9	9	2	8	6	10	44,00%	26
Azerbaijan	2	13	9	14	9	13	11	69,00%	10
Belgium	2	8	14	17	3	11	15	68,00%	11
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	4	3	5	3	3	4	44,00%	26
Bulgaria	2	6	2	7	6	3	3	27,00%	39
Croatia	1	4	5	6	4	8	7	68,00%	11
Cyprus	1	6	5	4	4	2	2	46,00%	23
Czech Republic	2	9	8	6	10	3	4	40,00%	31
Denmark	1	8	0	3	4	7	1	46,00%	23
Estonia	1	5	2	4	4	1	0	32,00%	34
Finland	1	8	6	7	5	4	6	72,00%	6
France	4	25	17	19	18	13	21	56,50%	14
Georgia	1	5	6	8	8	6	6	78,00%	2
Germany	4	13	13	15	5	9	8	31,50%	36
Greece	2	14	6	10	7	12	7	56,00%	16
Hungary	2	8	6	5	11	11	10	51,00%	21
Iceland	1	4	2	3	3	2	2	32,00%	34
Ireland	1	4	6	1	5	2	8	52,00%	19
Italy	4	20	6	16	25	25	21	56,50%	14
Latvia	1	7	3	9	2	4	4	58,00%	13
Liechtenstein	1	3	1	3	2	0	0	18,00%	43
Lithuania	1	7	8	7	7	7	2	76,00%	4
Luxembourg	1	2	8	9	7	4	5	70,00%	7
Malta	1	2	2	5	2	2	0	26,00%	40
Republic of Moldova	1	4	4	0	2	1	4	30,00%	37
Monaco	1	2	1	1	2	1	7	28,00%	38
Montenegro	1	3	0	3	2	1	0	18,00%	43
Netherlands	2	9	5	13	2	8	2	39,00%	33
Norway	1	4	4	5	6	2	2	46,00%	23
Poland	3	23	13	24	18	19	16	75,33%	5
Portugal	2	4	10	4	11	6	9	44,00%	26
Romania	3	23	16	22	12	16	15	69,33%	8
Russian Federation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Marino	1	4	2	4	3	4	3	40,00%	31
Serbia	2	9	3	13	4	5	10	44,00%	26

Slovak Republic	1	2	4	0	3	3	0	24,00%	41
Slovenia	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	14,00%	45
Spain	3	18	2	10	15	11	10	44,00%	26
Sweden	2	6	10	8	12	7	7	50,00%	22
Switzerland	2	17	11	15	12	11	13	79,00%	1
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2,00%	46
Turkey	4	18	18	21	22	15	18	56,00%	16
Ukraine	3	21	13	24	20	14	12	69,33%	8
United Kingdom	4	25	22	23	17	11	10	54,00%	18
Participation:	81	406	298	388	339	306	306	50,44%	
Participation (%):		55,69	45,99	53,22	52,31	47,22	47,22		

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%
January 2015	14 017	106	132	41,71%
April 2015	6 003	64	94	29,59%
June 2015	9 719	75	130	40,88%
October 2015	8 973	91	99	31,11%
Total 2015	38 712	336	115	36,35%
January 2016	12 072	101	120	39,19%
April 2016	8 957	103	87	28,51%
June 2016	8 451	86	98	32,22%
October 2016	4 550	54	84	27,63%
Total 2016	34 030	344	99	32,43%

January 2017	12 530	118	106	34,82%
April 2017	11 660	85	137	44,98%
June 2017	8 045	86	94	30,67%
October 2017	9 860	109	90	29,66%
Total 2017	42 095	398	106	34,68%

APPENDIX V – list of texts adopted by the Assembly in 2017, by descending order of the number of votes

- *Recognition and implementation of the principle of accountability in the Parliamentary Assembly* – Resolution 2169 (Tuesday 27 June 2017, 197 votes)
- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey* – Resolution 2156 (Tuesday 25 April 2017, 170 votes)
- *Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate* – Resolution 2144 and Recommendation 2098 (Wednesday 25 January 2017, 156 and 155 votes*)
- *Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe: what follow-up on respect for human rights?* – Resolution 2185 (Wednesday 11 October 2017, 152 votes*)
- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan* – Resolution 2184 (Wednesday 11 October 2017, 149 votes*)
- *Attacks against journalists and media freedom in Europe* – Resolution 2141 and Recommendation 2097 (Tuesday 24 January 2017, 134 and 135 votes)
- *Online media and journalism: challenges and accountability* – Resolution 2143 (Wednesday 25 January 2017, 134 votes*)
- *The need to reform European migration policies* – Resolution 2147 (Thursday 26 January 2017, 130 votes)
- *Alarming developments in Hungary: draft NGO law restricting civil society and possible closure of the European Central University* – Resolution 2162 (Thursday 27 April 2017, 128 votes)
- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine* – Resolution 2145 (Wednesday 25 January 2017, 126 votes)
- *Call for a Council of Europe Summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe* – Resolution 2186 and Recommendation 2113 (Wednesday 11 October 2017, 113 and 111 votes*)
- *The new Ukrainian law on education: a major impediment to the teaching of national minorities' mother tongues* – Resolution 2189 (Thursday 12 October 2017, 110 votes)
- *Migration as an opportunity for European development* – Resolution 2175 and Recommendation 2109 (Wednesday 28 June 2017, 109 and 107 votes*)
- *Human rights implications of the European response to transit migration across the Mediterranean* – Resolution 2174 (Wednesday 28 June 2017, 104 votes*)
- *A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis and the continuing flows into Europe* – Resolution 2173 and Recommendation 2108 (Wednesday 28 June 2017, 103 and 100 votes*)
- *Parliamentary scrutiny over corruption: parliamentary co-operation with the investigative media* – Resolution 2171 and Recommendation 2106 (Tuesday 27 June 2017, 97 and 101 votes*)
- *Promoting integrity in governance to tackle political corruption* – Resolution 2170 and Recommendation 2105 (Tuesday 27 June 2017, 95 and 101 votes*)
- *Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence* – Resolution 2159 (Wednesday 26 April 2017, 99 votes)
- *Integration of refugees in times of critical pressure: learning from recent experience and examples of best practice* – Resolution 2176 (Wednesday 28 June 2017, 98 votes*)
- *Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in public space* – Resolution 2177 (Thursday 29 June 2017, 88 votes)

- *Defending the acquis of the Council of Europe: preserving 65 years of successful intergovernmental co-operation* – Recommendation 2114 (Wednesday 11 October 2017, 84 votes*)
- *Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members* – Resolution 2182 (Tuesday 10 October 2017, 83 votes)
- *Human rights in the North Caucasus: what follow-up to Resolution 1738 (2010)?* – Resolution 2157 and Recommendation 2099 (Tuesday 25 April 2017, 74 and 74 votes)
- *Prosecuting and punishing the crimes against humanity or even possible genocide committed by Daesh* – Resolution 2190 (Thursday 12 October 2017, 71 votes)
 - *The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities* – Resolution 2163 and Recommendation 2101 (Thursday 27 April 2017, 66 and 70 votes)
- *The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (September 2015-December 2016) and the periodic review of the honouring of obligations by Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France and Germany* – Resolution 2149 (Thursday 26 January 2017, 68 votes)
- *Challenge on procedural grounds of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of the Slovak Republic* – Resolution 2148 (Thursday 26 January 2017, 64 votes)
- *The situation in Belarus* – Resolution 2172 and Recommendation 2107 (Tuesday 27 June 2017, 61 and 48 votes)
- *The humanitarian crisis in Gaza* – Resolution 2142 (Tuesday 24 January 2017, 60 votes)
- *Reinforcing social dialogue as an instrument for stability and decreasing social and economic inequalities* – Resolution 2146 (Wednesday 25 January 2017, 59 votes)
- *Venice Commission's "Rule of Law Checklist"* – Resolution 2187 (Wednesday 11 October 2017, 59 votes*)
- *25 years of the CPT: achievements and areas for improvement* – Resolution 2160 and Recommendation 2100 (Wednesday 26 April 2017, 58 and 58 votes)
- *The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights* – Resolution 2178 and Recommendation 2110 (Thursday 29 June 2017, 52 and 58 votes)
- *Human rights compatibility of investor-State arbitration in international investment protection agreements* – Resolution 2151 (Friday 27 January 2017, 56 votes*)
- *"New generation" trade agreements and their implications for social rights, public health and sustainable development* – Resolution 2152 (Friday 27 January 2017, 54 votes*)
- *New threats to the rule of law in Council of Europe member States: selected examples* – Resolution 2188 (Wednesday 11 October 2017, 52 votes*)
- *Abusive use of the Interpol system: the need for more stringent legal safeguards* – Resolution 2161 (Wednesday 26 April 2017, 51 votes)
- *Political influence over independent media and journalists* – Resolution 2179 and Recommendation 2111 (Thursday 29 June 2017, 50 and 48 votes)
- *Fighting income inequality as a means of fostering social cohesion and economic development* – Resolution 2158 ((Tuesday 25 April 2017, 49 votes)
- *The "Turin process": reinforcing social rights in Europe* – Resolution 2180 and Recommendation 2112 (Friday 30 June 2017, 49 and 47 votes)
- *The situation in Lebanon and challenges for regional stability and European security* – Resolution 2150 (Thursday 26 January 2017, 45 votes)

- *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan* – Resolution 2183 (Tuesday 10 October 2017, 45 votes)
- *Technological convergence, artificial intelligence and human rights* – Resolution 2102 (Friday 28 April 2017, 43 votes)
- *Draft Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property* – Opinion 293 (Friday 28 April 2017, 43 votes)
- *Promoting the inclusion of Roma and Travellers* – Resolution 2153 (Friday 27 January 2017, 42 votes)
- *The use of new genetic technologies in human beings* – Recommendation 2115 (Thursday 12 October 2017, 41 votes)
- *Possible ways to improve the funding of emergency refugee situations* – Resolution 2164 (Thursday 27 April 2017, 37 votes)
- *Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people* – Resolution 2191 and Recommendation 2116 (Thursday 12 October 2017, 36 and 33 votes)
- *Youth against corruption* – Resolution 2192 (Friday 13 October 2017, 32 votes)
- *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017* – Resolution 2181 (Tuesday 10 October 2017, show of hands)

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

APPENDIX VI – participation in committee meetings

Committee	2017		2016		2015		2014	
	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	55,69%	9	60,36%	9	63,76%	8	63,84%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	9	53,22%	8	56,17%	8	50,60%	8	54,47%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	8	45,99%	8	53,55%	8	46,43%	7	49,66%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	47,22%	8	50,15%	8	51,04%	8	50,89%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	8	52,31%	8	49,23%	7	49,15%	7	51,02%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	47,22%	8	51,70%	8	41,82%	8	52,68%
Monitoring Committee	9	48,03%	9	52,57%	9	62,52%	9	55,44%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	8	45,39%	6	44,15%	6	40,54%	6	44,14%
Committee on the Election of Judges to the ECHR	5	51,82%	6	54,55%	4	72,73%		
	72	49,68%	70	52,78%	67	52,74%	61	53,17%

Committee	2013		2012	
	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of meetings	average level of participation (in %)
Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	9	62,96%	9	62,43%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	9	55,82%	9	66,14%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	8	52,23%	8	55,21%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	52,53%	8	51,79%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	8	51,04%	7	54,08%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	48,96%	8	44,05%
Monitoring Committee	9	60,69%	9	59,69%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	7	37,06%	5	55,25%
Committee on the Election of Judges to the ECHR				
	63	53,22%	63	56,47%