



AS/Pro (2019) 01 def

24 January 2019

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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,
- participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in the Assembly’s general committees.

¹ Approved by the committee at its meeting on 15 January 2019

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).

6. It is recalled that the Russian Federation decided not to present the credentials of its parliamentary delegation for the whole 2018 session.² 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.

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 2018 part-sessions (see Appendix I) show that the overall average level of participation of the members of the 46 delegations was 51.75% in sharp decline compared to the previous ten years (it was 56.17% in 2017, 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). In contrast to the previous seven years, not all part-sessions recorded a participation rate over 50% (only 47% for June), the January part-session having the highest rate (64.34%).

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 2018 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, but only four of them have an average participation rate of more than 80% (Switzerland with 90.74%, Norway with 86.67%, Sweden with 84.26%, and Andorra with 81.94%). Six delegations were in this situation last year and in 2016 (eight in 2015, six in 2014, seven in 2013, eight in 2012 and seven in 2011). However, **20 of the 46 delegations’ average participation rates are less than 50%** (the figure was 17 in 2017, 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 20 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” (17.59% – and not a single representative at the June part-session; the rate was also less than 50% in 2017, 2015, 2014, 2012 and 2011)

² As a reminder, since the 2016 session, the Russian Parliament decided to no longer present the credentials of a parliamentary delegation. 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.

- Slovenia (17.59% – and not a single representative at the April and June part-sessions; the rate was also less than 50% in 2017, 2016, 2014, 2012 and 2008)
- Italy (28.40% – and not a single representative at the January part-session; the rate was also less than 50% in 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2011)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (33.33%; the rate was also less than 50% between 2010 and 2015)
- the Slovak Republic (34.44% – and not a single representative at the October part-session; the rate was also less than 50% between 2014 and 2016)
- Romania (35.28%)
- Albania (36.11%; the rate was also consistently less than 50% between 2011 and 2017)
- Spain (36.81%; 49.54% in 2017)
- Montenegro (37.96%; 12.96% in 2017 and 35.19% in 2016)
- Turkey (39.20%)
- Denmark (41.67%; the rate was also consistently less than 50% between 2011 and 2017)
- Monaco (41.67%; the rate was also less than 50% between 2014 and 2017)
- Bulgaria (42.59% – and not a single representative at the January part-session; the rate was also less than 50% between 2013 and 2017)
- Georgia (43.33; the rate was also less than 50% in 2016 and 2017)
- Belgium (44.84%)
- Estonia (46.30%)
- Germany (46.91%; the rate was also consistently less than 50% between 2011 and 2017)
- Luxembourg (47.22%)
- Malta (47.22% – the rate was also less than 50% between 2012 and 2017)
- Croatia (48.89%; the rate was also less than 50% in 2017 and 2016).

11. Looking at the last eight years, it is worth noting that some delegations have a consistently high level of participation (Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Armenia, Finland, Czech Republic, Turkey, Latvia, Cyprus, Estonia), 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, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Georgia, the Slovak Republic, Romania, Montenegro, Bulgaria).

12. It is also a matter of concern that the participation level of some large delegations (Germany and Italy) remains consistently below the expected 50%. Germany’s average participation level between 2008 and 2018 was 42.25% and Italy’s was 43.77%, while three other large delegations with 18 members (France, Turkey and United Kingdom) achieve regular higher participation levels over the same period (France’s average participation level between 2008 and 2018 was 63.62% and Turkey’s 70.31%).

13. Moreover, it shall be noted that almost none of the delegations which had a participation rate less than 50% over the last eight years was able to curb the trend on the long-term, Austria, Hungary, Ireland and Portugal being the exceptions. In 2018, the level of participation of Iceland, Serbia and the United Kingdom 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 2018, the participation rate of Assembly members in votes in plenary sittings fell to 26.13% (it was 34.38% in 2017, 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 **more than seven in ten signatories do not take part in votes during the sittings for which they have registered.**

15. Only six delegations out of 46 had a participation rate of over 50% in votes (the figure was eleven in 2017, 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 Andorra (two seats and 83.19%), Liechtenstein (two seats and 76.40%) and the same delegations as in previous years, i.e. Sweden (six seats and 73.30%), Norway (five seats and 70.73%), Switzerland (six seats and 62.78%), and then the Czech Republic (53.73%).

16. The fact that **29 delegations' participation rates in votes were less than 25%** may be seen as a very worrying trend (compared to 14 delegations in 2017, 22 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 Montenegro, Malta, Armenia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Ireland, Albania and Turkey (2.95%, 3.93%, 4.79%, 7.67%, 10.15%, 10.87%, 12.68%, 13.05%, 13.20%, 14.03% respectively) (see appendix II).

17. Analysis of the statistics since 2008 shows that some delegations maintain high participation rate in voting or have substantially improved their rate (Sweden, Switzerland, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Czech Republic, Poland (from 24% in 2015 to 70% in 2018), Austria, Iceland).

18. Conversely other delegations have failed to sustain the efforts made over the past years (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia) whereas the declining trend has become even worse in some others (Armenia (4.79% in 2018), Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway (69% in 2016 but 29% in 2018), the Netherlands (81.76% in 2015 but 2.95% in 2018), Turkey).

19. Between 2008 and 2018 20 delegations have an average participation rate of less than 25% (Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, 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, 30 members of the Assembly only took part, on average, in more than 50% of the votes during the 2018 session (compared to 43 in 2017, 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 2018 session, the Assembly adopted 81 texts.⁴ 16 of the 68 texts adopted at plenary sessions were voted on by over 100 members on their final adoption (23%). This is a worrying statistic, given the improvement recorded since 2013 (35% in 2017, 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 protection and promotion of regional or minority languages in Europe” (164 votes cast).⁵ The next most successful were the texts on “Good football governance” and “Working towards a framework for modern sports governance” (146 votes cast) and on “Follow-up to the report of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly” (142 votes).

³ For example, the Irish delegation's participation rate in the 2018 session was 78%, and its participation rate in voting was 13% only, the Dutch delegation's participation rate was 60% and its participation rate in voting was less than 3%, the Armenian delegation's rates were 57 % and less than 5% respectively. The same applies to Azerbaijan (76% and 18%), Croatia (49% and 18%), Estonia (46% and 16%), Finland (65% and 23%), Greece (61% and 22%), Hungary (50% and 15%), Latvia (70% and 21%), Malta (47% and 4%), and Portugal (67% and 17%).

⁴ 68 of these were adopted at Assembly part-sessions and 13 at Standing Committee meetings. In 2017, the Assembly adopted 80 texts (65 of which at plenary sessions); in 2016, 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 subjects related to the protection of specific human rights and the rule of law, as well as topical political issues (the migratory crisis; the situation in some member states or states on Europe's borders).

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 (39 of 68 texts – i.e. 57% – 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 2018, the nine Assembly committees held a total of 70 meetings.⁷

30. The overall level of participation of Assembly members in the Assembly's nine committees in 2018 was 49.80% (the rate was 49.68% in 2017, 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 remains stable (50.99%; 50.44% in 2017, 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 2017, 35 of 65 texts (53%) were adopted with less than 80 votes – 27 of 59 texts (46%) in 2016, 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 2017, they held 72 meetings, 70 in 2016 and 67 in 2015. The eight committees established before 2015 held 61 meetings in 2014, 66 in 2013 and 63 in 2012.

32. Only six delegations have average rates of participation in all committee meetings below 33% (they were 13 in 2017, 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:

- Slovenia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”⁸ and the Slovak Republic, with a rate of 25% or less;
- Estonia, Liechtenstein and Monaco, with a rate of less than 33%.

33. 24 of the 46 delegations achieved average participation rates of 50% or more (22 in 2017, 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, none of the delegations have an average of over 70% (seven achieved the same good result in 2017, six in 2016, four in 2015, nine in 2014 and 2013, eleven delegations in 2012, but only two in 2011). Ten delegations had averages of over 60% – France, United Kingdom, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Switzerland, Ukraine, Poland, Finland, Lithuania and Belgium.

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 2018, less than half of the committee meetings were held in Strasbourg (33 meetings out of 70). As in previous years, participation levels were better for meetings in Strasbourg (59.51%) than for meetings in Paris (32.32%) or elsewhere (38.65%).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 30 meetings in Paris in 2018 (compared to 31 meetings in 2017, 26 meetings in 2016 and in 2015, 22 in 2014 and 21 in 2013) and 7 meetings outside France (compared to 8 meetings in 2017, 2016 and 2015, 7 in 2014, 13 in 2013, 7 in 2012).

37. However, several delegations clearly gave precedence to meetings in Strasbourg, while some of them attend certain committee meetings in Paris or elsewhere more occasionally (Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Denmark, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, 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

⁸ The Macedonian delegation participated in a few meetings of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights during the year.

⁹ In 2018:

- the delegations of Latvia, Monaco, Montenegro and the Netherlands did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media,
- the delegations of Albania, Estonia and Liechtenstein did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination,
- the delegation of Cyprus in any of the meetings of 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 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 Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons.

¹⁰ The “attractiveness” of meetings in Paris may be questioned, since members’ interest in participating thereto is clearly declining over the past six years, compared to an average of 30.84% in 2017, 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: 28.61% in 2017, 37.49% in 2016, 35.29% in 2015, 41.81% in 2014, 39.41% in 2013 and 37.07% in 2012.

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 2011 reform of the Assembly – including the reduction in the number of committees – has not shown any effect in the long term (see Appendix VI).

40. As to the level of participation by committee, six committees out of nine recorded an overall figure of over 50% (compared to four committees in 2017, seven 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 (56.64%). Next came the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (56.36%), the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (55.86%), the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional (55.81%), the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (53.62%), the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (52.47%), the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (44.60%) the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (43.06%) and the Monitoring Committee (33.93%).¹²

3. Possible explanations

42. Every year for the last eleven 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. In general, the frequency of committee meetings is a constraint on the management of members’ agendas.

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. Six of the 20 delegations whose average participation rate in the Assembly part-sessions was less than 50% in 2018 were in an election year (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Slovenia, Turkey). 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

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, AS/Pro (2017) 03 and AS/Pro (2018) 02.

(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. Some delegations whose members were also involved in election campaigns in their countries continued to participate in Assembly activities in good numbers (Hungary, Latvia, Sweden).

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 resulted in a worrying trend, with regard to the participation rates of members in plenary sittings and in votes: the relatively low participation rate of members in votes shows a sometimes somewhat minimal interest in Assembly debates. Participation in committee meetings has evened out at a reasonable level, but this does not offer sufficient grounds for satisfaction. 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 is invited to hold an exchange of views on the basis of this memorandum, and to consider, 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 20 delegations affected by the measure planned under paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583 (average participation rate in Assembly sittings below 50%): Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Georgia, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey; and

. the 6 delegations affected by the measure planned under Rule 44.10 (average participation rate in committee meetings below 33%): Estonia, Liechtenstein, 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, as was done in previous years.

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 2018 the Italian delegation sent its credentials beyond the statutory deadline; in 2016 this was the case with regard to the Irish delegation and in 2015 with regard to the British delegation.

APPENDIX I

Participation of national delegations in the Assembly part-sessions in 2018

Country	Number of members	Average presence (signatures) January 2018	Average presence (signatures) April 2018	Average presence (signatures) June 2018	Average presence (signatures) October 2018	Average presence (signatures) 2018	Rank
Albania	4	38,89%	44,44%	13,89%	47,22%	36,11%	40
Andorra	2	83,33%	77,78%	83,33%	83,33%	81,94%	4
Armenia	4	88,89%	5,56%	86,11%	50,00%	57,64%	23
Austria	6	75,93%	81,48%	70,37%	64,81%	73,15%	10
Azerbaijan	6	90,74%	64,81%	68,52%	81,48%	76,39%	9
Belgium	7	69,84%	53,97%	49,21%	6,35%	44,84%	32
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	62,22%	40,00%	22,22%	8,89%	33,33%	43
Bulgaria	6	0,00%	55,56%	50,00%	64,81%	42,59%	34
Croatia	5	55,56%	44,44%	44,44%	51,11%	48,89%	27
Cyprus	2	5,56%	83,33%	66,67%	77,78%	58,33%	21
Czech Republic	7	69,84%	85,71%	49,21%	61,90%	66,67%	15
Denmark	5	68,89%	24,44%	28,89%	44,44%	41,67%	35
Estonia	3	44,44%	44,44%	40,74%	55,56%	46,30%	31
Finland	5	75,56%	48,89%	71,11%	64,44%	65,00%	17
France	18	77,78%	60,49%	58,02%	41,36%	59,41%	20
Georgia	5	55,56%	33,33%	31,11%	53,33%	43,33%	33
Germany	18	47,53%	51,23%	40,74%	48,15%	46,91%	30
Greece	7	65,08%	52,38%	44,44%	82,54%	61,11%	18
Hungary	7	55,56%	31,75%	61,90%	52,38%	50,40%	25
Iceland	3	51,85%	40,74%	55,56%	66,67%	53,70%	24
Ireland	4	86,11%	77,78%	86,11%	63,89%	78,47%	7
Italy	18	0,00%	46,91%	37,04%	29,63%	28,40%	44
Latvia	3	74,07%	81,48%	74,07%	51,85%	70,37%	13
Liechtenstein	2	61,11%	88,89%	77,78%	88,89%	79,17%	6
Lithuania	4	77,78%	80,56%	63,89%	94,44%	79,17%	5
Luxembourg	3	81,48%	59,26%	25,93%	22,22%	47,22%	28
Malta	3	51,85%	25,93%	55,56%	55,56%	47,22%	28
Monaco	2	22,22%	27,78%	66,67%	50,00%	41,67%	36
Montenegro	3	62,96%	14,81%	14,81%	59,26%	37,96%	38
Netherlands	7	63,49%	66,67%	55,56%	53,97%	59,92%	19
Norway	5	93,33%	91,11%	93,33%	68,89%	86,67%	2
Poland	12	61,11%	75,00%	33,33%	62,04%	57,87%	22
Portugal	7	87,30%	68,25%	47,62%	68,25%	67,86%	14
Republic of Moldova	5	75,56%	57,78%	62,22%	68,89%	66,11%	16
Romania	10	62,22%	48,89%	6,67%	23,33%	35,28%	41
Russian Federation	–	–	–	–	–	–	
San Marino	2	61,11%	88,89%	88,89%	72,22%	77,78%	8
Serbia	7	44,44%	61,90%	49,21%	44,44%	50,00%	26
Slovak Republic	5	64,44%	31,11%	42,22%	0,00%	34,44%	42
Slovenia	3	37,04%	0,00%	0,00%	33,33%	17,59%	45
Spain	12	53,70%	30,56%	16,67%	46,30%	36,81%	39
Sweden	6	88,89%	83,33%	81,48%	83,33%	84,26%	3
Switzerland	6	92,59%	98,15%	87,04%	85,19%	90,74%	1
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	3	37,04%	18,52%	0,00%	14,81%	17,59%	45

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Turkey	18	75,31%	11,73%	12,96%	56,79%	39,20%	37
Ukraine	12	85,19%	73,15%	50,00%	76,85%	71,30%	12
United Kingdom	18	83,33%	70,37%	68,52%	69,14%	72,84%	11
	323	60,75%	51,05%	44,48%	50,71%	51,75%	

APPENDIX II

Participation of national delegations in voting at the Assembly part-sessions in 2018

Country	Votes cast in 2018	Seats		Rank
Albania	179	4	13,20%	38
Andorra	564	2	83,19%	1
Armenia	65	4	4,79%	44
Austria	910	6	44,74%	7
Azerbaijan	368	6	18,09%	29
Belgium	562	7	23,68%	18
Bosnia and Herzegovina	282	5	16,64%	35
Bulgaria	221	6	10,87%	41
Croatia	318	5	18,76%	28
Cyprus	213	2	31,42%	13
Czech Republic	1275	7	53,73%	6
Denmark	344	5	20,29%	26
Estonia	170	3	16,72%	34
Finland	392	5	23,13%	21
France	1746	18	28,61%	16
Georgia	298	5	17,58%	31
Germany	1283	18	21,03%	24
Greece	537	7	22,63%	22
Hungary	372	7	15,68%	36
Iceland	398	3	39,13%	9
Ireland	177	4	13,05%	39
Italy	1416	18	23,21%	19
Latvia	218	3	21,44%	23
Liechtenstein	518	2	76,40%	2
Lithuania	444	4	32,74%	12
Luxembourg	172	3	16,91%	33
Malta	40	3	3,93%	45
Republic of Moldova	680	5	40,12%	8
Monaco	178	2	26,25%	17
Montenegro	30	3	2,95%	46
Netherlands	691	7	29,12%	15
Norway	1187	5	70,03%	4
Poland	699	12	17,18%	32
Portugal	459	7	19,34%	27
Romania	344	10	10,15%	42
Russian Federation	–	–	–	–
San Marino	199	2	29,35%	14
Serbia	497	7	20,94%	25
Slovak Republic	306	5	18,05%	30
Slovenia	78	3	7,67%	43
Spain	944	12	23,21%	19
Sweden	1491	6	73,30%	3
Switzerland	1277	6	62,78%	5
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	129	3	12,68%	40
Turkey	856	18	14,03%	37
Ukraine	1343	12	33,01%	11
United Kingdom	2145	18	35,15%	10
Total	27015	305	26,13%	

APPENDIX III

Participation in committee meetings in 2018 (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 2018		8	7	8	8	8	8		
Albania	1	7	4	5	1	0	0	36,17%	39
Andorra	1	4	4	4	5	4	4	53,19%	17
Armenia	1	4	3	5	3	5	5	53,19%	17
Austria	2	11	11	6	8	3	9	51,06%	21
Azerbaijan	2	13	9	11	11	9	10	67,02%	3
Belgium	2	7	9	8	7	11	15	60,64%	10
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	3	4	6	2	3	2	42,55%	32
Bulgaria	2	8	1	4	4	8	7	34,04%	40
Croatia	1	5	4	7	1	6	8	65,96%	4
Cyprus	1	5	5	3	5	6	0	51,06%	21
Czech Republic	2	7	6	8	5	9	6	43,62%	31
Denmark	1	3	0	2	4	8	3	42,55%	32
Estonia	1	3	2	5	5	0	0	31,91%	41
Finland	1	4	6	6	6	5	2	61,70%	8
France	4	20	21	26	18	21	22	68,09%	1
Georgia	1	4	1	6	5	3	2	44,68%	29
Germany	4	17	16	22	5	13	11	44,68%	29
Greece	2	12	11	8	5	11	5	55,32%	14
Hungary	2	10	4	5	9	10	9	50,00%	24
Iceland	1	5	4	7	3	6	2	57,45%	13
Ireland	1	1	7	4	3	6	5	55,32%	14
Italy	4	9	8	12	16	16	11	38,30%	36
Latvia	1	2	3	8	0	2	4	40,43%	35
Liechtenstein	1	4	3	4	4	0	0	31,91%	41
Lithuania	1	7	6	7	3	4	2	61,70%	8
Luxembourg	1	4	6	5	4	4	1	51,06%	21
Malta	1	5	4	5	4	4	1	48,94%	25
Republic of Moldova	1	3	4	4	1	2	4	38,30%	36
Monaco	1	3	2	2	0	1	7	31,91%	41
Montenegro	1	5	2	3	0	4	4	38,30%	36
Netherlands	2	12	5	12	0	11	9	52,13%	19
Norway	1	4	4	5	2	5	3	48,94%	25
Poland	3	21	10	16	12	17	12	62,41%	7
Portugal	2	5	12	1	13	11	10	55,32%	14
Romania	3	18	14	17	12	12	11	59,57%	11
Russian Federation	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00%	47
San Marino	1	4	3	4	3	3	3	42,55%	32
Serbia	2	9	6	5	2	8	13	45,74%	28

Slovak Republic	1	3	1	0	2	1	0	14,89%	44
Slovenia	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	8,51%	46
Spain	3	12	11	7	18	11	9	48,23%	27
Sweden	2	14	6	11	5	11	8	58,51%	12
Switzerland	2	9	6	8	12	12	14	64,89%	5
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	10,64%	45
Turkey	4	15	17	17	16	18	15	52,13%	19
Ukraine	3	16	12	24	14	15	10	64,54%	6
United Kingdom	4	26	26	25	20	21	10	68,09%	1
Participation:	81	367	304	362	279	340	289	50,99%	
Participation (%):		56,64	53,62	55,86	43,06	52,47	44,60		

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%
January 2018	5 912	71	83	27,30%
April 2018	9 037	105	86	28,22%
June 2018	7 453	103	72	23,72%
October 2018	4 613	60	77	25,21%
Total 2018	27 015	339	80	26,13%

APPENDIX V – list of texts adopted by the Assembly in 2018, by descending order of the number of votes

- *The protection and promotion of regional or minority languages in Europe* – Resolution 2196 and Recommendation 2118 (Tuesday 23 January 2018, 164 and 143 votes)
- *Good football governance* – Resolution 2200 (Wednesday 24 January 2018, 146 votes*)
- *Follow-up to the report of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly* – Resolution 2216 and Recommendation 2128 (Thursday 26 April 2018, 142 and 142 votes)
- *Working towards a framework for modern sports governance* – Recommendation 2120 and Resolution 2199 (Wednesday 24 January 2018, 121 and 140 votes*)
- *Regulating foreign funding of Islam in Europe in order to prevent radicalisation and Islamophobia* – Resolution 2237 (Wednesday 10 October 2018, 129 votes*)
- *Nuclear safety and security in Europe* – Resolution 2241 (Thursday 11 October 2018, 125 votes)
- *New restrictions on NGO activities in Council of Europe member States* – Resolution 2226 and Recommendation 2134 (Wednesday 27 June 2018, 121 and 121 votes)
- *State of emergency: proportionality issues concerning derogations under Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights* – Resolution 2209 and Recommendation 2125 (Tuesday 24 April 2018, 121 and 116 votes)
- *The Israeli-Palestinian peace process: the role of the Council of Europe* – Resolution 2202 (Thursday 25 January 2018, 120 votes)
- *Radicalisation of migrants and diaspora communities in Europe* – Resolution 2238 (Wednesday 10 October 2018, 118 votes*)
- *The humanitarian situation of refugees in the countries neighbouring Syria* – Resolution 2224 (Tuesday 26 June 2018, 111 votes)
- *Extra-territorial processing of asylum claims and the creation of safe refugee shelters abroad* – Resolution 2227 and Recommendation 2135 (Wednesday 27 June 2018, 94 and 91 votes*)
- *Human rights impact of the “external dimension” of European Union asylum and migration policy: out of sight, out of rights?* – Resolution 2228 and Recommendation 2136 (Wednesday 27 June 2018, 94 and 80 votes*)
- *The case for a basic citizenship income* – Resolution 2197 (Tuesday 23 January 2018, 93 votes)
- *The status of journalists in Europe* – Resolution 2213 (Wednesday 25 April 2018, 92 votes*)
- *Ukrainian citizens detained as political prisoners by the Russian Federation* – Resolution 2231 (Thursday 28 June 2018, 92 votes)
- *International obligations of Council of Europe member States: to protect life at sea* – Resolution 2229 and Recommendation 2137 (Wednesday 27 June 2018, 87 and 85 votes*)
- *Private and family life: achieving equality regardless of sexual orientation* – Resolution 2239 (Wednesday 10 October 2018, 86 votes)
- *Climate change and implementation of the Paris Agreement* – Resolution 2210 (Tuesday 24 April 2018, 85 votes)
- *Protecting human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States* – Resolution 2225 and Recommendation 2133 (Tuesday 26 June 2018, 84 and 85 votes)
- *Humanitarian needs and rights of internally displaced persons in Europe* – Resolution 2214 and

Recommendation 2126 (Wednesday 25 April 2018, 79 and 78 votes)

- *The protection of editorial integrity* – Resolution 2212 (Wednesday 25 April 2018, 74 votes*)
- *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina* – Resolution 2201 (Wednesday 24 January 2018, 67 votes)
- *Humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine* – Resolution 2119 and Recommendation 2119 (Tuesday 23 January 2018, 66 and 57 votes)
- *The treatment of Palestinian minors in the Israeli justice system* – Resolution 2236 (Tuesday 9 October 2018, 62 votes)
- *The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2017) and the periodic review of the honouring of obligations by Estonia, Greece, Hungary and Ireland* – Resolution 2203 (Thursday 25 January 2018, 61 votes)
- *The role of national parliaments in successful decentralisation processes* – Resolution 2242 (Thursday 11 October 2018, 60 votes)
- *Striking a balance between the best interest of the child and the need to keep families together* – Resolution 2232 (Thursday 28 June 2018, 59 votes)
- *Funding of the terrorist group Daesh: lessons learned* – Resolution 2211 (Tuesday 24 April 2018, 53 votes)
- *Unlimited access to member States, including "grey zones", by Council of Europe and United Nations human rights monitoring bodies* – Resolution 2240 and Recommendation 2140 (Wednesday 10 October 2018, 49 votes and 51 votes)
- *Copenhagen Declaration, appreciation and follow-up* – Recommendation 2129 (Thursday 26 April 2018, 48 votes)
- *The situation in Libya: prospects and role of the Council of Europe* – Resolution 2215 and Recommendation 2127 (Wednesday 25 April 2018, 48 and 46 votes)
- *The crash of Polish Air Force Tu-154M transporting the Polish State delegation, on 10 April 2010 on the Russian Federation's territory* – Resolution 2246 (Friday 12 October 2018, 47 votes)
- *Drug-resistant tuberculosis in Europe* – Resolution 2219 (Friday 27 April 2018, 44 votes)
- *Deal-making in criminal proceedings: the need for minimum standards for trial waiver systems* – Resolution 2245 and Recommendation 2142 (Friday 12 October 2018, 40 and 43 votes)
- *Deliberate destruction and illegal trafficking of cultural heritage* – Resolution 2234 and Recommendation 2139 (Friday 29 June 2018, 39 and 43 votes)
- *Protecting children affected by armed conflicts* – Resolution 2204 (Thursday 25 January 2018, 41 votes)
- *Migration from a gender perspective: empowering women as key actors for integration* – Resolution 2244 (Thursday 11 October 2018, 41 votes*)
- *Family reunification of refugees and migrants in Council of Europe member States* – Resolution 2243 and Recommendation 2141 (Thursday 11 October 2018, 39 and 40 votes*)
- *Forced marriage in Europe* – Resolution 2233 (Thursday 28 June 2018, 39 votes)
- *Strengthening international regulations against trade in goods used for torture and the death penalty* – Recommendation 2123 (Friday 26 January 2018, 38 votes)
- *Jurisdictional immunity of international organisations and rights of their staff* – Resolution 2206 and Recommendation 2122 (Friday 26 January 2018, 36 and 38 votes)

- *The case for drafting a European convention on the profession of lawyer* – Recommendation 2121 (Wednesday 24 January 2018, 37 votes)
- *Legal challenges related to hybrid war and human rights obligations* – Resolution 2217 and Recommendation 2130 (Thursday 26 April 2018, 36 and 36 votes)
- *Persecution of LGBTI people in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation)* – Resolution 2230 and Recommendation 2138 (Wednesday 27 June 2018, 34 and 33 votes)
- *Integration, empowerment and protection of migrant children through compulsory education* – Resolution 2220 (Friday 27 April 2018, 30 votes)
- *Fighting organised crime by facilitating the confiscation of illegal assets* – Resolution 2218 (Thursday 26 April 2018, 30 votes)
- *Empowering women in the economy* – Resolution 2235 (Friday 29 June 2018, 27 votes)
- *Challenge on procedural grounds of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Andorra* – Resolution 2205 (Thursday 25 January 2018, 24 votes)

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

APPENDIX VI – participation in committee meetings

Committee	2018		2017		2016		2015	
	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	8	56,63%	9	55,69%	9	60,36%	9	63,76%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	8	55,87%	9	53,22%	8	56,17%	8	50,60%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	7	53,62%	8	45,99%	8	53,55%	8	46,43%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	52,47%	8	47,22%	8	50,15%	8	51,04%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	8	43,06%	8	52,31%	8	49,23%	7	49,15%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	44,60%	8	47,22%	8	51,70%	8	41,82%
Monitoring Committee	9	33,93%	9	48,03%	9	52,57%	9	62,52%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	9	55,81%	8	45,39%	6	44,15%	6	40,54%
Committee on the Election of Judges to the ECHR	5	56,36%	5	51,82%	6	54,55%	4	72,73%
	70	49,80%	72	49,68%	70	52,78%	67	52,74%

Committee	2014		2013		2012	
	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	8	63,84%	9	62,96%	9	62,43%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	8	54,47%	9	55,82%	9	66,14%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	7	49,66%	8	52,23%	8	55,21%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	50,89%	8	52,53%	8	51,79%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	7	51,02%	8	51,04%	7	54,08%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	52,68%	8	48,96%	8	44,05%
Monitoring Committee	9	55,44%	9	60,69%	9	59,69%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	6	44,14%	7	37,06%	5	55,25%
Committee on the Election of Judges to the ECHR						
	61	53,17%	63	53,22%	63	56,47%