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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 2007, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted measures aimed at promoting improved participation by Assembly members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings. Paragraph 7 of Resolution 1583 (2007) 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 above, 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.

3. 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,

¹ Approved by the committee at its meeting on 26 January 2021

reorganising plenary sittings, with trimming of the agenda, improving the planning and grouping of committee meetings outside part-sessions. In 2015, the Assembly established a ninth committee, the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights and also decided to increase the number of seats allocated to the Turkish parliamentary delegation to eighteen.

4. The Committee on Rules of Procedure has been examining the statistics relating to members' participation in the work of the Assembly and its committees every year since 2008 and the present memorandum should, as it does every year, include elements for analysing these statistics, which may provide material for the discussion by the committee and the Bureau of the Assembly on the conclusions to be drawn from them. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has created an exceptional institutional situation and its unpredictability, intensity and duration have affected the work of the Assembly and its committees since March 2020 – the Assembly has only been able to hold one part-session (in January 2020) and has been forced to cancel its other three part-sessions and replace them with meetings of the Standing Committee. It is therefore not possible to present complete and coherent statistics this year.

5. In response to the national lockdown measures and travel restrictions decided by member states in connection with this pandemic, the Assembly took a series of decisions, as from April 2020, to maintain the activity of its bodies, adapt its working procedures and enable its members to fulfil their mandate. On 30 April 2020, the Bureau of the Assembly introduced complementary working methods for committees, which also apply to the Bureau and the Standing Committee, to enable them to hold remote meetings. On 20 November 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution 2349 on Modification of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure on alternative arrangements for the organisation of Parliamentary Assembly part-sessions. The Assembly is now in a position to hold plenary sessions in hybrid mode or remotely in exceptional circumstances which do not allow a part-session to be held in the physical presence of all members, thus ensuring the continuity of its action.

2. Statistics

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

6. In 2020, the Parliamentary Assembly was forced to cancel its April, June and October 2020 part-sessions and replace them with meetings of the Standing Committee organised by videoconference. Since the Assembly had only one part-session, that of January 2020, and insofar as the participation of delegations is not recorded for Standing Committee meetings, it is not possible to have complete statistics on the level of participation of national delegations in the Assembly's 2020 session, nor on their participation in voting at plenary sessions.

7. It should simply be noted that the overall participation of delegations in the votes held during the January 2020 part-session, with a rate of 41.68%, is one of the best results in the last ten years (see Appendix II).

8. During the 2020 session, the Assembly adopted 66 texts. In view of the exceptional organisation of its work during the year, most of these texts were debated and adopted at the eight meetings of the Standing Committee or Enlarged Standing Committee.² 12 of the 18 texts adopted at the January part-session were voted on by over 100 members on their final adoption (66% - which is a quite exceptional statistic. The record is held this year by the debate on "The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland" (188 votes).³ (see Appendix IV).

9. The debates held during the meetings of the Standing Committee were mainly dictated by current events and focused in particular on the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic but also on the subject of artificial

² 18 of these texts were adopted at the Assembly January part-session and 48 at Standing Committee meetings. In 2019, the Assembly adopted 90 texts (69 of which at plenary sessions); in 2018, 81 texts (68 of which at plenary sessions); in 2017, 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).

³ 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).

intelligence. Assembly members are also interested in topical political issues (Russian Federation, Azerbaijan), the protection of human rights and the rule of law, and specific social issues (migration, refugees).

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

10. 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.

11. 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.]

12. The aim therefore is 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.

13. As with participation in Assembly sittings, these statistics on participation in committee meetings should be put into perspective, as they record the signatures of members at the beginning of meetings, not their actual presence during them. This observation is even more justified in the case of remote meetings organised by videoconference, where it is not possible to establish the extent to which the connected members actually follow the discussions.

2.2.1. Participation levels in committee meetings by delegation

14. In 2020, the nine Assembly committees held a total of 62 meetings.⁴ Due to the exceptional circumstances forcing the Assembly to review its working methods, 49 committee meetings were organised by videoconference from Strasbourg between May and December 2020.

15. The overall level of participation of Assembly members in the Assembly's nine committees in 2020 was 51.78% (the rate was 47.69% in 2019, 49.80% in 2018, 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).

16. With more specific regard to the participation of national delegations in the meetings of the six committees where they are represented, the rate shows a slight increase (51.82%; 47.10% in 2019, 50.99% in 2018, 50.44% in 2017, 53.67% in 2016, 50.77% in 2015, 53.78% in 2014, 54.14% in 2013 and 56% in 2012, being well above the level before the reform of the Assembly in 2011, with 45.82% and 2010 with 44.71%) (see Appendix I).

17. 18 delegations have average rates of participation in all committee meetings below 33% (they were 12 in 2019, 6 in 2018, 13 in 2017, 10 in 2016, 9 in 2015, 8 in 2014, 9 in 2013, 8 in 2012, 14 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 9 in 2009 and 12 in 2008):

- Andorra, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, with a rate of 25% or less;
- Ireland, Italy, Montenegro, Norway and Romania, with a rate of less than 33%.

18. 22 of the 47 delegations achieved average participation rates of 50% or more (15 in 2019, 24 in 2018, 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). 13 delegations have an average of over 70% (two in 2019, none in 2018, seven in 2017, six in 2016, four in 2015, nine in 2014 and 2013, eleven delegations in 2012, but only two in 2011), including seven

⁴ In 2019, they held 68 meetings, 70 in 2018, 72 in 2017, 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.

delegations with averages of over 80% – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Greece, Monaco, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey (see Appendix I).

19. The national delegations' levels of participation in committee meetings vary greatly.⁵

20. In 2020, due to the quite exceptional circumstances, the committees held only 3 meetings in Paris (27 in 2019, 30 in 2018, 31 meetings in 2017, 26 meetings in 2016 and 2015, 22 in 2014 and 21 in 2013) and no meetings could be held outside France (7 meetings in 2019 and 2018; 8 in 2017, 2016 and 2015; 7 in 2014, 13 in 2013 and 7 in 2012).

21. No conclusions can therefore be drawn as to the delegations' willingness to travel to Paris or elsewhere or, on the contrary, to give preference to meetings in Strasbourg only on the occasion of part-sessions.

22. The nine committees held 49 meetings by videoconference between May and December 2020, which provides some insight into the level of participation of members in meetings organised remotely by electronic means, which some parliamentarians had been calling for.⁶ On the whole, it is undeniable that this method of operation has made it possible to ensure better participation in the work of the committees. In recent years, some delegations have put forward objective reasons to explain or justify their low participation rates in committee meetings, such as budgetary problems which rule out long or over-frequent journeys, or the unavailability of members due to their national agenda. It is clear that the overall participation rate in meetings organised by videoconference (48.31% for the nine committees) far exceeds the participation rate in meetings in Paris or elsewhere.⁷ However, such a statistic – less than one member in two connects to a meeting on average – is disappointing in view of the expectations placed on a facilitated mode of participation. Surprisingly,

⁵ In 2020:

- the Albanian delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media,
- the Bulgarian delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, 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 Danish delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons,
- the Estonian delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons,
- the Liechtenstein delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Committee on Social, Health and Sustainable Development, the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and the Media and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons,
- the delegation of North Macedonia did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Committee on Social, Health and Sustainable Development and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and the Media,
- the Maltese delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media,
- the Moldovan delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social, Health and Sustainable Development, the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and the Media, and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons,
- the Slovak delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Committee on Social, Health and Sustainable Development and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons,
- the Slovenian delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social, Health and Sustainable Development, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination,
- the delegations of Latvia and Luxembourg did not take part in any of the meetings of the Committee on Social, Health and Sustainable Development,
- the delegations of Montenegro and Serbia did not participate in any of the meetings of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and the Media,
- the delegations of Lithuania and Norway did not participate in any meeting of the Equality and Non-Discrimination.

⁶ See the motion for a resolution on "Possibility for remote participation in committee meetings outside Parliamentary Assembly sessions" (Doc.14807) of 22 January 2019.

⁷ However, this rate is still lower than the level of participation of members in meetings during Assembly part-sessions in Strasbourg, it being understood that meetings in Strasbourg follow specific arrangements: each committee holds several meetings during the week which are counted as a single meeting and all the signatures are put together; the same member is likely to attend several committee meetings held at the same time.

some delegations that took part in committee meetings during the January 2020 part-session did not take part in any meetings organised by videoconference even though such meetings did not involve any travel.⁸

2.2.2. Overall participation levels in meetings by committee⁹

23. 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 2019, six committees in 2018, four committees in 2017, seven in 2016, five in 2015, six in 2014 and 2013 and seven in 2012) (see Appendix V).

24. The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy had the highest participation rate (59.67%). Next came the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (56.06%), the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (55.30%), the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (55.13%), the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs (54.96%), the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (51.96%), the Monitoring Committee (48.06%), the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (47.06%), and the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (44.58%).¹⁰

3. Possible explanations

25. Every year for the last thirteen 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 2008.¹¹ 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.

26. 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.

27. 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. Since the global financial and economic crisis of 2008, which has had a strong impact on the budgets of the parliaments of many member states, some delegations admitted that they had decided to stop sending substitutes to sit in the Assembly or on committees.

28. Moreover, some small delegations regularly refer to the fact that their members cannot ensure regular participation in all the meetings of all the committees. Lastly, 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.

29. It goes without saying that organising remote meetings by videoconference offers delegations and their members greater flexibility in planning their attendance, without having to manage travel constraints.

4. Conclusions

30. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted the Assembly and led it to rearrange its work – the Assembly held only one part-session (in January 2020) and cancelled its other three part-sessions. While the Committee on

⁸ For example, members of the delegations of Liechtenstein and Luxembourg, the Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia and Serbia to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy; members of the delegations of Andorra, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Montenegro, San Marino and Serbia to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ There are no alternate members in the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs.

¹¹ 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, AS/Pro (2018) 02, AS/Pro (2019) 01 and AS/Pro (2020) 03.

Rules of Procedure has been examining statistics on the participation of national delegations in the work of the Assembly and its committees every year since 2008, it is not possible to have complete statistics for 2020 and therefore to present a refined analysis of these statistics this year.

31. The development and implementation of alternative procedures has enabled the Assembly and its committees to continue their work. The Standing Committee has met eight times remotely and the nine Assembly committees have held 49 meetings by videoconference between May and December 2020. It is undeniable that this mode of operation has made it possible, overall, to ensure better participation in the work of the committees. However, less than one member in two connects to a committee meeting remotely. In view of the expectations placed on these new operating methods, which aim to facilitate the participation of members, such a statistic is disappointing. Insofar as this mode of operation will continue in 2021, it will be necessary to analyse further the perception that national delegations and members themselves have of the new tools that have been made available to them.

32. The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs considered this memorandum and, in accordance with Resolution 1583 (2007), it decided to transmit it to the Bureau of the Assembly, for appropriate follow-up:

- the committee invites the President of the Assembly to inform the chairpersons of the delegations concerned by low participation rates (Rule 44.10 of the Rules of Procedure), i.e. the 18 delegations with an average participation in committee meetings below 33% (Andorra, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia);
- it suggests that the statistics relating to the participation of national delegations be made publicly available on the Assembly's website.

APPENDIX I

Participation of delegations in committee meetings in 2020 (6 committees)

No.	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 2020		7	9	7	6	8	7		
1	Albania	1	1	0	6	0	1	7	34,09%	29
2	Andorra	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	22,73%	35
3	Armenia	1	7	9	7	6	7	7	97,73%	1
4	Austria	2	13	10	5	11	13	12	72,73%	9
5	Azerbaijan	2	14	17	14	8	14	14	92,05%	3
6	Belgium	2	4	5	2	10	8	12	46,59%	25
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	3	5	4	2	3	5	50,00%	22
8	Bulgaria	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2,27%	47
9	Croatia	1	2	3	6	3	7	3	54,55%	18
10	Cyprus	1	7	1	7	6	8	2	70,45%	13
11	Czech Republic	2	2	3	2	0	6	4	19,32%	37
12	Denmark	1	2	1	0	2	0	3	18,18%	38
13	Estonia	1	4	2	3	5	2	3	43,18%	27
14	Finland	1	6	4	4	6	8	7	79,55%	8
15	France	4	18	21	21	20	12	17	61,93%	16
16	Georgia	1	5	1	3	6	0	5	45,45%	26
17	Germany	4	23	20	16	2	13	13	49,43%	23
18	Greece	2	14	11	14	12	11	12	84,09%	5
19	Hungary	2	12	5	7	7	3	11	51,14%	21
20	Iceland	1	7	3	7	2	8	5	72,73%	9
21	Ireland	1	0	2	4	1	6	1	31,82%	31
22	Italy	4	16	5	9	13	7	2	29,55%	32
23	Latvia	1	7	1	7	2	1	7	56,82%	17
24	Liechtenstein	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4,55%	45
25	Lithuania	1	3	3	6	2	7	0	47,73%	24
26	Luxembourg	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	15,91%	41
27	Malta	1	2	0	4	0	1	1	18,18%	38
28	Republic of Moldova	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	6,82%	44
29	Monaco	1	7	8	7	6	8	7	97,73%	1
30	Montenegro	1	4	3	1	0	4	1	29,55%	32
31	Netherlands	2	6	4	13	1	10	14	54,55%	18
32	North Macedonia	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	9,09%	43
33	Norway	1	7	1	1	1	3	0	29,55%	32
34	Poland	3	11	10	7	6	11	10	41,67%	28
35	Portugal	2	4	18	7	11	12	7	67,05%	14
36	Romania	3	8	10	10	4	3	8	32,58%	30
37	Russian Federation	4	25	26	27	19	19	26	80,68%	7
38	San Marino	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	18,18%	38
39	Serbia	2	2	2	1	0	1	5	12,50%	42

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40	Slovak Republic	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4,55%	45
41	Slovenia	1	3	0	1	5	0	0	20,45%	36
42	Spain	3	16	19	19	11	11	19	71,97%	11
43	Sweden	2	8	10	5	8	5	12	54,55%	18
44	Switzerland	2	12	17	9	8	15	14	85,23%	4
45	Turkey	4	25	33	24	24	18	24	84,09%	5
46	Ukraine	3	14	20	19	9	19	14	71,97%	11
47	United Kingdom	4	22	25	14	20	29	6	65,91%	15
	Participation:	85	355	341	328	265	320	329	51,82%	
	Participation (%):		59,66	44,58	55,13	51,96	47,06	55,29		

APPENDIX II – Average participation in votes: 2007 - 2020

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%
January 2019	5 912	80	74	24,63%
April 2019	9 373	99	95	31,56%
June 2019	43 134	280	154	51,35%
October 2019	7 505	83	90	28,52%
Total 2019	65 924	542	122	40,54%
January 2020	19 657	146	135	41,68%
April 2020				
June 2020				
October 2020				
Total 2020	19 657	146	135	41,68%

APPENDIX III – Overall participation in Standing Committee meetings in 2020

Place	Date	Number of participants
Paris	6 March	29
visioconference	30 April	42
visioconference	7 May	35
visioconference	26 June	50
visioconference	15 September	40
visioconference	12-23 October	57
visioconference	20 November	51
visioconference	4 December	34

APPENDIX IV - list of texts adopted by the Assembly in 2020, by descending order of the number of votes

- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland* – Resolution 2316 (Tuesday 28 January 2020, 188 votes)
- *The protection of freedom of religion or belief in the workplace* – Resolution 2318 (Wednesday 29 January 2020, 170 votes)
- *Complementary joint procedure between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly in response to a serious violation by a member State of its statutory obligations* – Resolution 2319 (Wednesday 29 January 2020, 163 votes)
- *Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of the Russian Federation* – Resolution 2320 (Wednesday 29 January 2020, 147 votes)
- *Reported cases of political prisoners in Azerbaijan* – Resolution 2322 and Recommendation 2170 (Thursday 30 January 2020, 116 and 115 votes)
- *Threats to media freedom and journalists' security in Europe* – Resolution 2317 and Recommendation 2168 (Tuesday 28 January 2020, 109 and 104 votes)
- *International obligations concerning the repatriation of children from war and conflict zones* – Resolution 2321 and Recommendation 2169 (Thursday 30 January 2020, 103 and 103 votes)
- *Missing refugee and migrant children in Europe* – Resolution 2324 and Recommendation 2172 (Thursday 30 January 2020, 102 and 103 votes*)
- *Concerted action against human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants* – Resolution 2323 and Recommendation 2171 (Thursday 30 January 2020, 82 and 93 votes*)
- *Democracy hacked? How to respond?* – Resolution 2326 (Friday 31 January 2020, 71 votes)
- *The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2019)* – Resolution 2325 (Thursday 30 January 2020, 69 votes)
- *Organ transplant tourism* – Recommendation 2173 (Friday 31 January 2020, 28 votes*)
- *Combating trafficking in human tissues and cells* – Resolution 2327 (Friday 31 January 2020, 27 votes*)

(* - votes in a joint debate)

APPENDIX V – participation in committee meetings

Committee	2020		2019		2018		2017	
	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	7	59,67	8	53,70	8	56,63%	9	55,69%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	7	55,13	8	52,47	8	55,87%	9	53,22%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	9	44,58	8	40,90	7	53,62%	8	45,99%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	47,06	8	41,51	8	52,47%	8	47,22%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	6	51,96	7	45,50	8	43,06%	8	52,31%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	7	55,30	8	48,30	8	44,60%	8	47,22%
Monitoring Committee	9	48,07	9	38,53	9	33,93%	9	48,03%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	6	54,96	7	55,41	9	55,81%	8	45,39%
Committee on the Election of Judges to the ECHR	3	56,06	5	51,82	5	56,36%	5	51,82%
	62	51,78%	68	47,69%	70	49,80%	72	49,68%

Committee	2016		2015		2014		2013	
	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	60,36%	9	63,76%	8	63,84%	9	62,96%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	8	56,17%	8	50,60%	8	54,47%	9	55,82%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	8	53,55%	8	46,43%	7	49,66%	8	52,23%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	8	50,15%	8	51,04%	8	50,89%	8	52,53%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	8	49,23%	7	49,15%	7	51,02%	8	51,04%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	51,70%	8	41,82%	8	52,68%	8	48,96%
Monitoring Committee	9	52,57%	9	62,52%	9	55,44%	9	60,69%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	6	44,15%	6	40,54%	6	44,14%	7	37,06%
Committee on the Election of Judges to the ECHR	6	54,55%	4	72,73%				
	70	52,78%	67	52,74%	61	53,17%	63	53,22%