



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 12803

5 December 2011

Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Communication
from the Committee of Ministers

Letter from the Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, dated 24 November 2011

Mr President,

Pursuant to Article 9 of Resolution Res(99)50 on the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, I would like to inform you that, out of five candidates submitted, the committee of Ministers, at the 1127th meeting of the Deputies (22-24 November 2011), has drawn up a list of three candidates following a voting procedure, the names being presented in alphabetical order so as to indicate that the Committee of Ministers does not wish to express any preference between candidates included in the list.

I enclose a copy of the decision in both official languages.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: Eleanor FULLER
Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies

Item 4.1

Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

(Resolution Res(99)50, CM/Inf(2011)47, CM(2011)137, CM(2011)154, CM(2011)159, CM(2011)160, CM(2011)161 rev)

Decision

The Deputies decided to transmit to the Parliamentary Assembly, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 1, of Resolution Res(99)50, the following list of three candidates, in alphabetical order:

- Mr Pierre-Yves MONETTE (Belgium)
- Mr Nils MUIŽNIEKS (Latvia)
- Mr Frans TIMMERMANS (Netherlands)

APPENDIX 1

Strasbourg, 28 October 2011
(English translation)

Mr Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General of the Council of Europe
67000 Strasbourg

Dear Secretary General,

With reference to your letter of 22 August 2011 and in accordance with Article 9.2 of Committee of Ministers Resolution (99) 50, I have the honour of forwarding the candidature of Mr Pierre-Yves Monette for the post of Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

I am convinced that Mr Monette is an excellent candidate for this important post in view of his qualifications, his personal commitment and his vast experience in the field of human rights, international mediation and strengthening the rule of law.

As a senior expert in the United Nations Department for Political Affairs and a professor at the College of Europe (Bruges), Mr Monette has for several years been making an active contribution to various international organisations (UN, Council of Europe, European Union, Francophonie). In his former capacity as Federal Ombudsman, acting also as National Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Monette was particularly active in the networks of national and regional ombudsmen, assisting with the drafting of the law establishing a national ombudsman in various member states. I have no doubt that his perseverance, multicultural sensitivity and strong sense of dialogue would be valuable assets for carrying out a demanding role where independence, impartiality and developing relationships based on trust with all member states are essential.

A lawyer and philologist by training, and author of numerous publications in the field of human rights and the rule of law, Mr Monette could also put to good use for the benefit of the Council of Europe his detailed knowledge of the “new” human rights.

Please find enclosed his CV, providing detailed information on his qualifications.

Yours faithfully,

Signed:
Marjan Janssens
Chargée d’Affaires a.i.

P-Y MONETTE

CURRICULUM VITAE + CANDIDACY

COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Disponible également en Français

1. MY PROJECT

- To act with independence and dialogue, without dogmatism or confrontation:
 - o Independence in the exercise of the function
 - o Understanding for political, socio-economic, cultural & historical parameters in the global approach of the situation of Human Rights
 - o Practice of dialogue, not of confrontation

- To strengthen the achievements of the two first Commissioners for Human Rights:
 - o Develop trustful relations with Member States
 - o Cooperate with the various Human Rights practitioners, institutional and civil, in the different Member States
 - o Pursue both the thematic as well as the systematic analysis of Human Rights in the different Member States
 - o Serve as a mediator between parties in conflicts implying Human Rights issues
 - o Enlarge the action of the Commissioner to 'new' Human Rights

- To collaborate, in a well understood independent but cooperative relationship, with the various organs within the Council of Europe:
 - o The general Secretariat
 - o The different general Directorates
 - o The Committee of Ministers and their Delegates
 - o The Parliamentary Assembly and the parliamentary rapporteurs

- To implement the Commissioner's mission under Protocol nr 14:
 - o By implementing this competence with proper judgment

- To cooperate with the National and Regional Ombudspersons, the National Institutions for the promotion/protection of Human Rights and the National Institutions for the protection of vulnerable groups and against discriminations, notably by :
 - o Intensifying the exchange of information with these institutions
 - o Fostering cooperation with them in specific matters
 - o Organizing exchanges of experience as well as training
 - o Promoting the setting up of Ombudspersons and National Institutions for the promotion & protection of Human Rights in Member States where those do not yet exist

- To enhance the visibility of the work of the Commissioner for Human Rights:
 - o Develop contacts with the media and others relays and attend major conferences
 - o Ensure an ever growing impact of the reports of the Commissioner
 - o Create partnerships with international Organizations competent for Human Rights
 - o Use modern canals to develop information networks
 - o Develop partnerships with the educational world to strengthen the awareness to Human Rights as from school
 - o Launch partnerships with the different churches and the laic world as well as with other opinion leaders

2. MY PROFILE

- Senior expert at the UN, Department for Political Affairs (DPA-MSU), in constitutional, mediation and Human Rights issues (since 2011)
- Professor at the College of Europe, in Alternative Dispute Resolution and International Mediation (since 2002)
- Expert for Human Rights, Mediation and Rule of Law for the Council of Europe, the European Union and the *Francophonie* (since 1998)
- National Ombudsman of a Member State (1st Federal Ombudsman of Belgium), very active in the networks of National and Regional Mediators and Ombudsmen: assistance in drafting the bill on the national Ombudsperson in various Member States and training the staff members of different Ombudspersons' Offices (1997-2005)
- Also very present in the new Human Rights, as access to water and sanitation (Secretary-general of the European Federation of water and sanitation – since 2007)
- Sense for dialogue, very valuable for the exercise of a function whose efficiency depends of the medium line to conciliate the intangible character of principles and the specificities of the assessed situations
- Good knowledge of the European continent (numerous contacts & networks in Western, Central, Eastern, Southern and Northern Europe)
- Command of English, French, Dutch, German & Spanish, with a moderate knowledge of Italian & Portuguese
- Numerous publications on Human Rights, Mediation and the Rule of law (see point 4)
- Actor of the European debate: author of *Europe, State of emergency* with a foreword by Boutros Boutros-Ghali and *The United States & Europe* with a foreword by Laurent Fabius & Wilfried Martens
- Good management skills (King Baudouin's Office, King Albert II's Office and as founder of the Belgian federal Ombudsperson Office)
- Totally at ease in multicultural environments

3. MY CURRICULUM VITAE

I. PERSONAL DATA

Pierre-Yves MONETTE
Belgian, born in Brussels on November 5, 1960
Married, two children

II. STUDIES, DEGREES AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- * Bachelor degree in Roman Philology & Letters, University of Louvain (Belgium, 1982)
- * Master degree in Law (*cum laude*), University of Louvain (Belgium, 1984)
- * Diploma in Spanish language and literature, University of Salamanca (Spain, 1987)

III. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Since 2011: Senior expert for the United Nations (DPA-MSU) in Constitutional, mediation and Human Rights issues
Since 2007: Secretary-general of EUREAU (European Federation of water and sanitation)
Since 2002: Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges (Alternative Disputes Resolution and international mediation)
Since 1998: Expert in Human Rights, Mediation and Rule of Law for several international organisations and for different States
1997- 2005 : Federal Ombudsman of Belgium
1994-1996: Attorney at the Brussels Bar
1991-1993: Adviser at the Cabinet of King Baudouin, then of King Albert II

IV. ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Expertise in Human Rights, Mediation and Rule of Law in Belgium, as for the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the European Union, EUREAU and the *Francophonie*:

- * **Belgium**: Federal Ombudsman of Belgium (1997-2005): In Belgium, in the absence of a National Commission of Human Rights, the Federal Ombudsman covers the Human Rights
- * **Europe**: Bosnia-Herzegovina (2001), Bulgaria (1998, 2002, 2010), Croatia (2001), Cyprus (2008, 2009), Czech Republic (2002, 2009), Denmark (2009), Hungary (2005, 2010), Italy (2009, 2010, 2011), Macedonia (2003), Norway (2010), Poland (2009, 2010), Romania (2000, 2009), Russia (2005), Serbia (2004, 2005), Slovenia (2001), Spain (2008, 2009, 2010), Sweden (2009, 2010), Turkey (2005, 2010)
- * **Africa**: Burkina Faso (1999, 2004), Central Africa (2011), Chad (2000), Congo (2003), Congo-DRC (2004, 2005, 2006, 2011), Ethiopia (1998), Mali (2000, 2004, 2006)
- * **Middle-East**: Lebanon (2000, 2002, 2005), United Arab Emirates (2010)

V. PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

- *Federal Ombudsman of Belgium (1997-2005)
- * Adviser at the Cabinet of the King (1991-1993)
- * Promotion of environmental Human Rights – mainly access to water and sanitation (since 2007)

VI. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Academic activities: Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges

VII. PUBLICATIONS

(see infra)

VIII. LANGUAGES

(5 = mother language / 4 = Excellent / 3 = good / 2 = medium / 1= basic)

- * French (5),
- * English (speaking 4 / reading 4/ writing 4)
- * Dutch (speaking 4 / reading 4 / writing 4)
- * Spanish (speaking 4 / reading 4 / writing 3)
- * German (speaking 3 / reading 2 / writing 2)
- * Portuguese (speaking 2 / reading 1 / writing 1)
- * Italian (speaking 1/ reading 1 / writing 1)

IX. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATIONS: Professional skills & personal aptitudes

- * strong experience in promoting/monitoring Human Rights, solving conflicts, strengthening rule of Law
- * used to work and negotiate with Governments, Parliaments and senior policy makers
- * deep knowledge of internal/external constitutional and law review processes
- * good mastery of the judicial organization and practices (CoE – Protocole 14)
- * numerous contacts with NGOs and civil society representatives
- * accurate sense for psychology and for dialogue
- * high multicultural sensitivity
- * strong sense for analysis

Most recent or relevant publications

ESSAYS

- * *The Unites States & Europe* (in French), Bruylant, Nauwelaerts & Frison-Roche Co-ed., Brussels - Paris, 1991, (forewords by L. Fabius & W. Martens) (Silver medal 'Robert Schuman', Toepfer FVS Foundation).
- * *Europe, state of emergency* (in French), Desclée de Brouwer Ed., Paris, 1997 (foreword by B. Boutros-Ghali).
- * *Profession: King- Family, Entourage, Power* (in French), Alice Ed., Brussels, 2002/(in Dutch), Van Halewijk Ed., Leuven, 2003.
- * *Belgique, où vas-tu* (in French), Mardaga Ed., Wavre, 2007.

COLLECTIVE BOOKS (In English or French)

- * *The Belgian Constitution*, Le Cri Ed., Brussels, 2004.
- * *Non jurisdictional organs to promote and protect Human Rights*, IDEF Ed., Paris, 2003
- * *Institutions of Democracy and the Rule of Law*, in Acts of the international conference on Democracy, Law and Liberties, OIF Ed., Paris, 2000.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

in English

- * *Breaching the borders of democracy*, European Voice, 9-15 June, 2005.
- * *Moving from adversarial to non-adversarial approaches: a contemporary approach in ombudsmanship*, in Ombudsmanship, prospects and challenges for the 21st century, Ed. of the Commissioner for administration, Nicosia, 2002.
- * *The parliamentary ombudsman in Belgium: strengthening democracy*, in Human Rights Commissions and Ombudsman Offices, Kluwer Law International Ed., The Hague, 2001.
- * *The parliamentary ombudsman, a natural instrument for the protection and the promotion of human rights*, The European ombudsman Ed., Strasburg, 1999.

in French

- * *Democratic governance, parameter for a sustainable development*, in Chroniques de Droit Public, Nr 1, Bruges, 2009.
- * *Political power and the ombudsman*, in Chroniques de Droit Public, Nr 1, Bruges, 2006.
- * *The evolution of the function of ombudsman in the law & political European context*, The Council of Europe, Strasburg, 2004.
- * *Justice & Mediation*, in La Libre Belgique, 24-25.I.2004, Brussels, 2004.
- * *The ombudsman and the legislation relating to aliens*, in Protection of Human Rights and proximity to the citizen: the prerogatives of the ombudsman, AOMF Ed., Paris, 2001
- * *From controlling legality to controlling equitable administration: an essay on the nature of the control performed by the Parliamentary Ombudsman on the civil service*, in Revue Belge de Droit Constitutionnel, Nr 1, Bruylant Ed., Brussels, 2001.
- * *Mediation, as ADR, and its various applications*, in Administration publique, Nr 99/1, Bruylant Ed., Brussels, 2000.

October 2011

APPENDIX 2



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

Address: K. Valdemāra iela 3, LV-1395 Rīga, Latvija. Phone: (+371) 67016201, 67016239,
fax: (+371) 67828121, 67282882, e-mail: mfa.cha@mfa.gov.lv

Rīga, 8 September 2011
No. 37/252 – 3119

Mr Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General
of the Council of Europe

Dear Secretary General,

With reference to your letter as of 22 August 2011 and in accordance with Article 9.2 of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Resolution (99) 50, I have the honour to present **Dr Nils Muižnieks as the candidate of the Government of the Republic of Latvia for the post of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.**

The Government of the Republic of Latvia believes that in light of Dr Muižnieks' qualifications and profound professional experience in the field of human rights he is one of the most suitable candidates for the distinguished post.

Dr Muižnieks has developed a longstanding comprehensive experience in various human rights related fields, including, by working as a member and currently serving as the Chairman of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe, and the Special Assignments Minister for Social Integration Affairs of Latvia. In addition, Dr Muižnieks has extensively researched human rights issues, demonstrated by his various publications.

More detailed Curriculum Vitae of Mr Muižnieks is enclosed herewith.

We are convinced that Dr Muižnieks has the necessary experience and personal qualifications as well as the commitment needed to successfully carry out the mandate of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping horizontal strokes and a vertical stroke that crosses them.

Girts Valdis Kristovskis
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Latvia

Letter of Candidacy for the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner

The Human Rights Commissioner's post requires profound professional expertise in human rights, broad experience, intimate knowledge of the Council of Europe and its place in the European human rights regime, and a well-honed sense of how to get things done. I believe I can bring all of these qualities to the office. I intend to continue the good work done by the Commissioner's office to lead it successfully in the challenging environment it will face over the next 6 years.

I have worked in human rights for the last 17 years in a wide range of capacities. Since 2005, I have been a member with regard to Latvia of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). I gained sufficient respect for my knowledge and leadership from my colleagues in ECRI that they elected me chairman as of January 2010. As chairman, I have not only acquired an insider's perspective on the workings of the Council of Europe, but also a keen sense of its place in the broader European human rights architecture and the imperative of seeking synergies with others. As chairman of ECRI, I have honed my diplomatic skills – skills I developed earlier as a minister with a broad and sensitive portfolio in the Latvian government.

From 2002 through 2004 I was a minister in the Latvian government responsible for social integration, anti-discrimination, minority rights, and civil society development. Here, I learned the politics of human rights from the inside – the constraints governments face and their sensitivities, the coalitions and compromises that must be forged, the importance of relations with the media and civil society, and the opportunities available to people of good will to work together to implement change.

I have also had the privilege of working in an academic setting and in civil society. I have a Ph.D. in political science and have focussed my recent teaching and research on issue of racism, immigrant integration, minorities throughout Europe and the politics of post-communist transformation. In the 1990s I led Latvia's foremost human rights non-governmental organization engaged in human rights education, monitoring closed institutions, promoting gender equality and minority rights. We received several regional awards for our work. My native languages are English and Latvian, but I have proficient French and Russian.

What would I do as Human Rights Commissioner? It is essential to maintain the independence of the office and take an equal approach to all member states. At the same time, the Commissioner is in a unique position to respond to urgent situations and opportunities on an ad hoc basis. Maintaining independence should be supplemented by a more intense exploration of opportunities for synergies with other Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms, political bodies, and assistance programmes, especially in the context of the ongoing reform of the Council of Europe.

With regard to external partners, establishing more sustained cooperation with the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and the OSCE is essential. In addition to continuing cooperation with FRA on issues related to discrimination against various vulnerable groups, one possible area of cooperation could be data protection and human rights. A possible area of cooperation with the OSCE could be on combating racism in and exploiting the human rights potential of social networking sites, an issue not really addressed to date.

The core partners of the Commissioner in member states are national human rights institutions/ombudsmen. Here, in addition to working together to exchange good practices in keeping these organizations strong, independent, and effective, I would like to explore ways in which cooperation can be intensified between these bodies and academic institutions promoting human rights education and ministries of education. These bodies also have a key role in promoting human rights in closed institutions – police detention cells, prisons, and psychiatric institutions.

The Commissioner should play an active role in following up on the Council of Europe report by the Group of Eminent Persons "Living Together in Europe" and its focus on Roma, migrants and asylum-seekers and the human rights aspects of integration policies.

The Commissioner should also continue to promote the human rights of vulnerable children – especially disabled children, unaccompanied minor migrants and asylum-seekers, victims of trafficking, those who are institutionalized, as well as those who are stateless. Gender equality issues will also remain high on my agenda, including issues of non-discrimination, domestic violence and trafficking. Here, the Commissioner should explore more intense cooperation with new Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms. Social and economic rights more broadly will continue to demand the attention of the Commissioner, particularly in the context of the ongoing global economic crisis.

I think it is high time for someone from the Eastern half of Europe to assume a prominent European human rights post such as that of the Commissioner. Those who helped to build freedom in a post-communist context have a special contribution to make to European human rights culture. As a candidate from Latvia with broad experience all over the continent and a long-term commitment to human rights, I believe I am well-suited to meet the challenges of the office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nils Muiznieks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nils Muiznieks
Candidate for the post of Human Rights Commissioner
Republic of Latvia

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal details

Name, Surname: **NILS MUIZNIEKS**
Sex: Male
Date of birth: 31.01.1964.
Nationality: Latvia

Professional Activities

December 2005-present

Director, Advanced Social and Political Research Institute (ASPRI), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia.

Direct research and manage staff of 19; Deputy director State research programme "National Identity"; Teach "International Organisations and Minorities in Central and Eastern Europe", "Racism and Intolerance in Contemporary Europe", "Russia's Policy in the CIS and the Baltic States"; Chair graduate seminar "Analysing political, social and economic processes in the post-Soviet space";

November 2002 - December 2004

Special Assignments Minister for Social Integration Affairs, Government of the Republic of Latvia.

Full Cabinet Minister responsible for social integration policy, rights of persons belonging to national minorities, combating racial/ethnic discrimination, civil society development; Responsible for legislation in anti-discrimination, social integration, legal framework for NGOs; Coordinated inter-ministerial working groups for National Programme on Tolerance, policy framework for strengthening civil society, cooperation with Latvians abroad; Advised local governments on integration policy; represented Latvia before EU, OSCE, UN.

June 1994 - November 2002

Director, Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies (now Latvian Human Rights Centre), Riga, Latvia.

Led award-winning human rights NGO (EU-USA Democracy and Civil Society Award 1998, 1st OSCE Max van der Stoep prize 2003); Organisational focus – human rights education/promotion, closed institutions, gender equality, rights of persons belonging to national minorities; Supervised human rights monitoring, research, advocacy, education, legal aid, staff of 10.

Part-time programme director, Human Rights and Tolerance Programme, Soros Foundation – Latvia, Riga, Latvia.

Developed strategy on supporting civil society human right activism; Developed projects: citizenship awareness campaign, creation of regional human rights centres, etc.; Administered grants competitions on ethnic dialogue, human rights coalitions.

Activities and experience in the field of human rights

Council of Europe

Member with regard to Latvia (since 4/2005) and Chair (since 1/2010) of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).

Selected activities: Chair ECRI plenary sessions, represent ECRI before CM, PACE, other CoE mechanisms, international partners (EU, OSCE, UN); Rapporteur for country reports on Poland, the Netherlands, Slovakia; Member of working groups for Ireland, Iceland, Norway; Chaired working group on GPR No. 11 on combating racism in policing; Lead member in national roundtables in Germany, France.

International human rights evaluation work

March-April 2011, evaluator of a Western donor's democracy promotion in **Belarus**;

January 2007, expert on conflict resolution/social cohesion, Joint EU assessment mission to **Georgia (Abkhazia and South Ossetia)**, organized by the EU Special Representative to the South Caucasus and the European Commission;

Spring 2008, Evaluator, European Commission, 7th Framework Research Programme, Citizenship and Democratic Ownership, **Brussels, Belgium**, Spring 2008.

International human rights training work

May 2009, trainer, minority integration and Europe, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Stockholm/Georgian Institute for International and Strategic Studies, Tbilisi, **Georgia**;

April 2008, trainer, minority integration and Europe, Latvian Institute for International Affairs/Moldovan Institute for Development and Social Initiatives, Chisinau, **Moldova**.

Other academic human rights work

Member, academic advisory board, **European Centre on Minority Issues (ECMI), Flensburg, Germany**, since 2010;

Member, **European Council on Foreign Relations (London)**, steering group, European Foreign Policy Scorecard 2010, esp. EU human rights policy, since 2009.

Education and academic and other qualifications

- 1993 Ph.D., political science, University of California at Berkeley, USA
- 1988 M.A., political science, University of California at Berkeley, USA
- 1986 B.A., politics, Princeton University, *summa cum laude*, USA
- 1985 Intensive summer Russian, Monterey Institute of International Studies, USA
- 1984 Semester abroad at the University of Grenoble, France (during study at Princeton University)

Publications and other works

2 books, 33 book chapters or articles, 14 edited volumes, 12 policy papers, 6 reviews, >100 press articles.

2011 „Latvian-Russian Memory Battles before the European Court of Human Rights“. In *The Geopolitics of History in Latvian-Russian Relations*, ed. Nils Muiznieks. Riga: University of Latvia Press, pp. 219-238.

2010 „Social Integration: A Brief Intellectual History“. In *How Integrated is Latvian Society? An Audit of Achievements, Failures and Challenges*, ed. Nils Muiznieks. Riga: University of Latvia Press, pp. 7-32.

2008 „Latvia: managing post-imperial minorities“ (with David J. Galbreath). In *Minority Rights in Central and Eastern Europe*, ed. Bernd Rechel. London: Routledge, pp. 135-150.

2007 Editor, *The National Minorities Convention – the Prevention of Discrimination and the Preservation of Identity in Latvia*. Riga: University of Latvia (in Latvian).

2006 Editor, *The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: Europe's Experience for Latvia*. Riga: CoE Information Bureau (in Latvian).

2005 „Preface“, „Latvia“. In *Racist Extremism in Central and Eastern Europe*, ed. Cas Mudde. London: Routledge, pp. X-XII, 101-128.

2003 „The European Union, democratization, and minorities in Latvia“ (with Ilze Brands Kehris). In *The European Union and Democratization*, ed. Paul J. Kubicek. London: Routledge, pp. 30-55.

2002 "Private & Public Prejudice", *Social Research* (69, No. 1, Spring), pp. 195-200.

2002 "Human Development and Human Rights", "Non-Citizens". In *Human Development*, ed. Evita Lune. Riga: UNDP (in Latvian), pp. 31-38 and 216-223.

2001 "Extremist Threats to Democracy in Europe in 2000 and 2001". Background Paper for the Political Affairs Committee of the PACE, November 2001.

2001 "Expert Review Mission on Latvian National Human Rights Office and Ombudsman Functions in Latvia". With John Hucker, Janis Mazeiks, Lauri Lahtimaja. Riga: UNDP/OSCE Mission to Latvia. 19 June 2001.

2000 "The Struggle Against Racism and Xenophobia in Central and Eastern Europe: Trends, Obstacles and Prospects". Paper for the Regional Seminar 'The Protection of Minorities and Other Vulnerable Groups and Strengthening Human Rights Capacity at National Level', UN document HR/WSW/SEM.2/2000/BP.1, 30 June 2000.

Languages

- a. Mother tongues: **Latvian** and **English**
- b. Official languages:
English: fluent speaking, reading, writing
French: fluent reading, proficient speaking and writing
- c. Other languages: **Russian**: fluent reading, proficient speaking, basic writing

Other relevant information

Cross of St. Mary, Third Class, Republic of Estonia, 2005
Social Unity Award, Social Integration Foundation, Latvia, October 2002

APPENDIX 3



Permanente Vertegenwoordiging van het
Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

*The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the
Netherlands to the Council of Europe*
Ref. STR-127/11

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and has the honour to propose Mr Frans Timmermans for the post of the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Dutch Government is convinced that Mr Timmermans is eminently well-qualified for this position.

Mr Timmermans, a former Minister for European Affairs, is currently spokesperson on foreign affairs for the Labour Party in the Dutch House of Representatives.

He previously worked for European Commissioner Hans van den Broek and was advisor and private secretary to Max van der Stoep, the High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Mr Timmermans' knowledge of European affairs and national minorities is exceptional.

Mr Timmermans started his career as a diplomat for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A significant posting during that period was his time with the Dutch embassy in Moscow. He has an excellent knowledge of English, Russian, French, Italian and German. His full curriculum vitae is enclosed.

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe the assurances of its highest consideration.

Strasbourg, 31 October 2011

To the Secretary-General of the
Council of Europe
Strasbourg



Curriculum Vitae, Franciscus (Frans) C.G.M. Timmermans



<i>Name</i>	Frans Timmermans
<i>Nationality</i>	Dutch
<i>Date of birth</i>	6 May 1961
<i>Marital status</i>	Married

Profile

Minister for European Affairs in the previous and fourth Balkenende government. Frans Timmermans was re-elected in June 2010 as a member of the House of Representatives where he is currently the foreign affairs spokesperson for the Labour Party.

Mr Timmermans has a degree in French language and literature obtained at Radboud University, Nijmegen and Diplôme d'études approfondies en littérature, Diplôme d'études supérieures européennes from the University of Nancy where he completed a postgraduate course in European Law and Politics and French Literature. He is an accomplished and eloquent speaker with native proficiency in French, English, German and fluent in Italian, alongside Dutch. His linguistic skills extend to a good command of Russian and a sound working knowledge of Spanish.

Having completed military service at the Military Intelligence Service in 1987, he followed the induction course for diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he subsequently held the post of policy officer in the European Integration Department. In 1990 he was Embassy Secretary at the Dutch Embassy in Moscow. Three years later he became deputy head of the Minister for Development Co-operation's EEC Affairs Section, and progressed to working for the then EU Commissioner, Hans van den Broek.

As advisor and private secretary to Max van der Stoep, the High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), his main focus was on Central Europe, the Baltics, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

From 1998 Frans Timmermans was a member of the House of Representatives of the States General for the Labour Party (PvdA), and chaired the permanent parliamentary committees on foreign and economic affairs. He held an additional post of party spokesperson on defence and European affairs and represented the House of Representatives on the European Convention.

A father of four, he is passionately concerned about the welfare of children urging that they're afforded every opportunity to develop into solid, independent citizens. He strongly advocates governance on a global level. The need to return to the drawing board so that long established organisational and political structures in need of fundamental changes can be dealt with is, he stresses, of crucial importance.

In his powerful and erudite TEDxAmsterdam talk in 2009 on the subject of 'Fear', Mr Timmermans convincingly brought home the necessity to redefine the relationship between man and his natural environment. He clearly indicated that the presence of the earth and its resources no longer being self-evident is unprecedented in human history. Rather than creating living conditions conducive to achieving the highest human potential, much of our time, money and effort will be invested in managing natural and man-made disasters.

On an optimistic note, he is, however, entirely convinced that with the aid of the extraordinary advancements in both science and technology, we are certainly capable of changes that allow our planet to yield prosperity for each and every one.

Curriculum Vitae, Franciscus (Frans) C.G.M. Timmermans

Human Rights Experience

- **Member of the Political commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**
Mr Timmermans was extremely engaged in stimulating and improving Human Rights in Europe. During this time, he focused specifically on promoting Human Rights in the Netherlands.
- **Advisor and Private Secretary to Max van der Stoel, the High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**
Through this position Mr Timmermans gained vast knowledge of the Human Rights situation in the entire European continent. He learned to combine the battle for Human Rights with a practical and result-oriented approach. Human Rights are no declaratory purpose but an instrument for a more righteous society as a means for solving longstanding conflicts.
- **Minister for European Affairs**
Mr Timmermans regularly attended meetings of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and was in this capacity engaged in Human Rights issues.

Professional Activities

- Until 1998 • **Advisor and Private Secretary** to Max van der Stoel, the High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. In that capacity his main focus was on Central Europe, the Baltics, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.
- 1994 – 1995 • **Worked for the EU Commissioner**, Hans van den Broek, who was responsible for the enlargement of the European Union.
- 1993 – 1994 • **Deputy Head of the Minister for Development Co-operation's EEC Affairs Section** at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 1990 – 1993 • **Second Secretary** at the Dutch Embassy in Moscow.
- 1988 – 1990 • **Policy Officer** in the European Integration Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 1986 – 1987 • **Completed military service** at the Military Intelligence Service, after which he followed the induction course for diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Political Activities

- June 2010 • **Re-elected as Member of the House of Representatives**, where he is currently the foreign affairs spokesperson for the Labour Party.
- Feb. 2007
Feb. 2010 • **Minister for European Affairs** in the fourth cabinet led by Mr Balkenende.

Curriculum Vitae, Franciscus (Frans) C.G.M. Timmermans

- 1998 – 2007
- **Member of the Dutch delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.**
- From 1998
- **Member of the House of Representatives of the States General for the Labour Party (PvdA).**
 - Chaired the permanent parliamentary committees on foreign affairs and economic affairs
 - Party's spokesperson on defence and European affairs
 - Represented the House of Representatives on the European Convention
 - Has held several honorary positions, e.g. member of the executive committee of the European Movement and in various cultural and social organisations

Dutch Awards

Knight of the Order of Orange Nassau, the Netherlands (2010)

International Awards

Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Chile (2009)
Commander Grand Cross of the Order of the Polar Star, Sweden (2009)
Grand Cross of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas, Lithuania (2008)
Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class, Estonia (2008)
Grand Cross of the Order of the Southern Cross, Brazil (2008)
Chévalier de la Legion d'Honneur, France (2007)
Commander of the Order of Merit, Romania (2005)
Golden Laurel Branch Decoration of Honour, Bulgaria (2005)
Order of merit of the Republic of Poland (2006)

Publications

Mr Timmermans is a prolific writer of articles on foreign affairs and domestic political issues. He is a regular contributor to the national Dutch newspaper: NRC Handelsblad.

His further publications include:

- *The European Project from a global perspective: 'chez nous ù de nous ù et avec nous' (2010)*
- *'Glick Auf, the tale of a European Limburger (2010) (a book on Europe, global issues and social democracy)*
- *Weblog: www.nederlandineuropa.nl*
- *Monthly column in newspaper: 'De Limburger'*
- *'l'Europe à plusieurs vitesses', in 'Revue française de science politique' (1986)*

Academia

Mr Timmermans was professor at Utrecht University, the Netherlands where he held the Treaty of Utrecht chair in 2010 and early 2011.

Academic Background

Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands
1985 Degree in French Language and Literature
University of Nancy, France – postgraduate course
Diplôme d'études approfondies en littérature
Diplôme d'études supérieures européennes

Curriculum Vitae, Franciscus (Frans) C.G.M. Timmermans

Languages

Dutch: native
English: native proficiency
French: native proficiency
German: native proficiency
Italian: fluent
Russian: good command
Spanish: a sound working knowledge