

Press Release

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PACE summer session highlights: alleged secret detentions, freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs

Strasbourg, 20.06.2006 – Debates on alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers in Europe, as well as on the balance between freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs – with the participation of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan – are among highlights of the summer plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which takes place in Strasbourg from 26 to 30 June 2006.

On the morning of Tuesday 27 June Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) will present his report on "alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states". Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security Franco Frattini and the European Parliament's rapporteur on this subject, Giovanni Claudio Fava, will take part in the debate.

The President of the Council of the Russian Federation Sergey Mironov will address the Assembly on Wednesday 28 June and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko will present the Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Assembly the following day.

There have been requests for urgent debates on the consequences of the referendum in Montenegro and on constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Other subjects for discussion include the position of the Assembly as regards Council of Europe member and observer states which have not abolished the death penalty, the human rights of irregular migrants – with the participation of Morocco's Minister-Delegate in charge of Moroccans living abroad Nouzha Chekrouni – and follow-up to the earlier resolution on the challenge of credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan.

The parliamentarians will also discuss domestic violence against women, ahead of the launch of a three-year Council of Europe campaign on this theme, with the participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women Yakin Ertürk.

Jean Lemierre, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, will take part in the Assembly's annual debate on the contribution of the EBRD to economic development in central and eastern Europe.

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Below is the draft order of business, updated to incorporate proposed changes. The Assembly will decide on its final order of business at the opening of the session.

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The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 315 members from the national parliaments of the 46 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political Groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); EDG (European Democratic Group); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).

Monday 26 June (3 pm)

- Statement by René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly
- Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee
- [Implementation of Resolution 1480 \(2006\) on the challenge of credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan](#)
- [External relations of the Council of Europe](#)

Tuesday 27 June

- Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to [Finland](#), [Monaco](#) and [Switzerland](#)
- [Alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states](#), statements by Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security Franco Frattini and European Parliament rapporteur Giovanni Claudio Fava
- [The contribution of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to economic development in central and eastern Europe](#), statement by EBRD President Jean Lemierre
- [Human rights of irregular migrants](#), statement by Moroccan Minister-Delegate in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad Nouzha Chekrouni

Wednesday 28 June

- Statement by Sergey Mironov, President of the Council of the Russian Federation
- Freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs, address by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- Joint debate on follow-up to the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of member states of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005)
 - [Implementation of the decisions of the Third Summit](#)
 - Migration, refugees and population in the context of the Third Summit
 - Priorities for cultural co-operation
 - [Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women](#), statement by UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women Yakin Ertürk
- [Position of the Parliamentary Assembly as regards the Council of Europe member and observer states which have not abolished the death penalty](#)

Thursday 29 June

- Possible urgent debate
- Ceremony for the launch of the "All Different, All Equal" European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation
- Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly presented by Alexander Grushko, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, representing the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers
- [Progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure \(May 2005-June 2006\)](#)

Friday 30 June

- [Ratification of the Framework Convention for the protection of national minorities by the member states of the Council of Europe](#)
- [Preventing forest fires](#)
- [Academic freedom and university autonomy](#)

Practical information

PACE President René van der Linden will give a press conference on Monday 26 June at 11 a.m. in Room 1. Other press conferences will be announced on the spot.

See the Assembly's website, <http://assembly.coe.int>, for further details. Additional information may also be found on the Council of Europe web portal, <http://www.coe.int/PASession>

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