

Press Release

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PACE to observe general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Strasbourg, 27.09.2006 – A twenty-member delegation from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), headed by Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, ALDE), will observe the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Sunday 1 October 2006.

The delegation, which will be in the country from 29 September to 2 October, will assess whether the elections meet international – and in particular Council of Europe – standards for democratic elections.

Members are due to meet electoral officials and representatives of the main political parties, as well as journalists and NGOs, before observing polling on the day of the vote.

The members of the delegation are:

Socialist Group (SOC)

Gülsun Bilgehan, Turkey
Milos Jeftić, Serbia
Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, Switzerland
Maria Rosario Fatima Aburto, Spain
Maria Josefa Porteiro Garcia, Spain
Lydie Err, Luxembourg

Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)

Pedro Agramunt, Spain
Urszula Gacek, Poland
Lajla Pernaska, Albania
Dušan Proroković, Serbia
Mehmet Tekelioğlu, Turkey
Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)

Morten Østergard, Denmark
Johannes Randegger, Switzerland
Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom (head of delegation)

European Democrat Group (EDG)

Ruhi Açıkgöz, Turkey
Yuri Sharandin, Russian Federation

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)

Alexander Fomenko, Russian Federation

The delegation is due to give its preliminary assessment at a **press conference on Monday 2 October at 1 p.m. (to be confirmed)**.

Contact on the spot : Bas Klein, PACE Secretariat, tel: +33(0)6 62 26 54 89.

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).