

Press Release

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PACE President calls on all political forces in Ukraine to urgently agree a clear solution to political crisis

Kyiv, 22.05.2007 – Politicians in Ukraine must urgently find a clear political solution to the current crisis, or risk losing their credibility in the eyes of both Ukrainians and the international community, according to René van der Linden, President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), who is concluding a two-day visit to the country (21-22 May 2007).

During his visit, Mr van der Linden met President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yanukovych, as well as Parliamentary Speaker Oleksandr Moroz, religious leaders, NGO representatives, the leaders of all parliamentary factions and the parliamentary delegation to PACE.

"I welcome the fact that contacts between the political forces represented in the Parliament has resumed in the framework of a Joint Working Group," the President said. "These contacts should lead, as soon as possible, to a fully-fledged dialogue at the highest level in order to find a clear solution based on the rule of law."

He congratulated all sides that they had not allowed the conflict to result in confrontation on the streets and continued to uphold basic democratic freedoms such as freedom of expression and assembly.

The Council of Europe – and in particular its Parliamentary Assembly – stood ready to provide assistance in arriving at a much-needed political solution, he added. Following any agreement, he hoped the parties would seek the advice of the Council of Europe's constitutional law experts, the Venice Commission.

"We are not here to judge who is right or wrong," the President pointed out, "but to help find a solution which meets the needs of Ukraine, a full member of the European family, and its people."

[Link to Assembly resolution](#)

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 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).