

Press Release

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PACE President: Election of Serbian Speaker – an important signal for the international community

Strasbourg, 23.05.2007 - Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) President René van der Linden today warmly welcomed the election of Oliver Dulić (DS) as the new Speaker of the Serbian Parliament. "His election is an important signal for the international community. He is a committed democrat and a convinced European which he has shown as former chairman of the European Integration Committee of the now-defunct parliament of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. This is good news for the country and its people, for its further European integration and last but not least for the Council of Europe, as Serbia has just taken over the Chairmanship of the Organisation's executive, the Committee of Ministers, for six months," Mr van der Linden said.

"As I am currently on an official visit to Serbia, I am now looking forward to meet with Mr Dulić in order to discuss the country's chairmanship in the 47-member Organisation, further integration of Serbia, co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the issue of Kosovo and ways in which our Parliamentary Assembly can assist the Parliament in implementing further democratic and legal reform," the PACE President concluded.

Note to Editors

Following the election of Mr Dulić, the programme of the PACE President and Standing Committee meeting in Belgrade were up-dated as follows:

Thursday, 24 May, 9.00 am (Sava Centar, room 1A): the President of the National Assembly welcomes the members of the PACE Standing Committee

Thursday 24 May, approx. 10.30 am (Sava Centar): press conference by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Vuk Jeremić, the President of the National Assembly and PACE President.

[Press release "Belgrade: PACE President on official visit and Standing Committee meeting"](#)

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).