

Press Release

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National and regional parliamentarians in Europe reflect together on democracy and 'active citizenship' at major conference

Strasbourg, 07.09.2007 – National parliamentarians and their equivalents from regional parliaments across Europe will gather in Strasbourg on 12 September for a major international conference on "Representative democracy, European affairs and active citizenship".

Jointly organised by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE), the conference aims to take stock of representative democracy at its various levels, to exchange experience and to outline the future of inter-parliamentary co-operation between national and regional parliaments, especially those with legislative powers.

More than 220 participants are expected, including legislators from at least thirteen national parliaments and from regions such as Arkhangelsk, Adjara, the Azores, the Basque Region, Bavaria, Catalonia, Emilie-Romagna, the Flemish Region, Madeira, Toscana, Vojvodina and the Walloon Region. A delegation from the Council of Europe Congress will also attend.

The conference will be opened by PACE Vice-President Walter Schmied and the President of the Parliament of Catalonia and former CALRE President Ernest Benach. Three working sessions will cover the themes:

- The role of parliaments in strengthening democracy
- Relations between national and regional parliaments
- Regional parliaments' participation in European politics

A final document will be adopted by the conference around 5.30 p.m.

The conference will be followed on 13 September by a separate meeting of the Forum of European Regional Assemblies, a body of CALRE.

[Draft programme \(PDF\)](#)

[More information on the conference](#)

[Website of the CALRE](#)

The conference is **open to the press**. For accreditation, please contact Daniëlle Schreiber-Somoza (Tel. +33 3 88 41 25 44)

Contact:

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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).