

Press Release

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Bratislava: PACE Standing Committee meeting and official visit by PACE President

47 members

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Croatia
Cyprus
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Denmark
Estonia
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Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
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Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
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Portugal
Romania
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San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine

Strasbourg, 19.11.2007 – The Standing Committee (*) of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) will meet in Bratislava on Friday 23 November 2007, to discuss [Slovakia's priorities](#) for its coming Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's executive body, the Committee of Ministers.

Following the opening of the meeting by PACE President René van der Linden, and a welcoming address by the Speaker of the Slovak National Council Pavol Paška, the committee is due to hold an exchange of views with Slovak Foreign Minister Ján Kubiš, who will chair the Committee of Ministers for the next six months.

The parliamentarians are due to debate the [activities of the Council of Europe Development Bank](#) with the participation of the Chairman of its Governing Board Lars Kolte, [radioactive waste](#), [Europe's response to humanitarian disasters](#) and [the situation of children living in post-conflict zones in the Balkans](#), as well as a series of reports on electoral issues, and the creation of a [Gender Equality Prize](#). The committee is also due to approve an [opinion on the revised draft Convention of the Council of Europe on the adoption of children](#).

On 22 and 23 November, PACE President René van der Linden will have separate official meetings with the Slovak President Ivan Gašparovič, Prime Minister Robert Fico, Speaker of the National Council Pavol Paška and Foreign Minister Ján Kubiš.

On Thursday 22 November, there will also be three parliamentary events, organised by PACE committees or sub-committees (all open to the press):

9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	The situation of Roma in Europe Participants include Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Dušan Čaplovič, responsible for minority questions
2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	The fight against terrorism and the protection of human rights: progress and shortcomings Participants include EU and OSCE experts, as well as a representative of Human Rights Watch
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Round table on the role of men in combating domestic violence against women Participants include Slovak Labor, Social Affairs and Family Minister Viera Tomanová

The Bureau, a smaller body which arranges the Assembly's work, will also meet on Thursday (closed to the press) to discuss, among other things, the draft regulations for an annual PACE Human Rights Prize, whether or not to begin monitoring Italy over the possible abuse of media power and the results of a preliminary investigation into the allegedly suspicious death of former President Trajkovski of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

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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).

PACE President René van der Linden, the Speaker of the Slovak National Council Pavol Paška and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ján Kubiš are due to hold a short “stand-up” meeting with the press at 10 a.m.

[Accreditation and other information from the Slovak Parliament](#)

[Draft agenda of the Standing Committee](#) (PDF)

[Working documents of the meeting](#)

[Draft agenda of the Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities](#)

[Draft agenda of the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism](#)

[Members of Slovakia's delegation to PACE](#)

[Slovakia and the Council of Europe](#)

[PACE in brief](#) (PDF)

All meetings take place in the building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Župné námestie 12, Bratislava, except the round table, organised in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Seminary Room, Spítalska 4-6, Bratislava.

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(*) The Standing Committee acts on behalf of the Assembly between plenary sessions, bringing together some 80 parliamentarians from the Council of Europe's 47 member states.