

Press Release

Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

Ref: 831a07

Tel: +33 3 88 41 31 93

Fax :+33 3 90 21 41 34

pace.com@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



47 members

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Azerbaijan
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Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

PACE to observe parliamentary elections in Russia

Strasbourg, 23.11.2007 – The Bureau of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), meeting in Bratislava, yesterday confirmed that the Assembly will send a cross-party delegation of up to 55 parliamentarians, headed by Luc van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD), to observe the Duma elections in Russia on 2 December 2007.

"Our aim is to make a fair and impartial assessment of these elections, as for all member states subject to our monitoring procedure, and we look forward to working closely with fellow parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly," said PACE President René van der Linden. Referring to ODIHR, he added: "I sincerely hope that it will reconsider its decision not to observe these elections."

The observers will begin meetings in Moscow on Thursday 29th November with electoral officials and representatives of the main parties running in the election, as well as the media and NGOs, before observing the vote in a representative sample of polling stations around the country, including in central Russia, Siberia and the Far East.

A nine-member PACE "pre-electoral" delegation issued a [statement](#) after visiting Moscow from 7 to 9 November to assess the run-up to the elections.

The heads of the PACE and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations will hold a joint press conference to present their preliminary conclusions on Monday 3 December in Moscow (time and place to be confirmed)

[Provisional list of delegation members](#)

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).