

Press Release

Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

Ref: 849b07

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

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
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 President calls to commute the death sentences of three sentenced in Belarus

Strasbourg, 28.11.2007 - Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) President René van der Linden today called on the authorities of Belarus to commute the death sentences of Syarhey Marozaw, Ihar Danchanka and Valerii Gorbati, who were sentenced to death by shooting by the Supreme Court in 2006.

"I call on President Lukashenko to immediately commute the death sentences", the PACE President said. Recalling that death is not justice, he called on the President Lukashenko to call for a moratorium on executions in Belarus as a clear and firm step to bringing Belarus closer to the Council of Europe.

"The death penalty has no legitimate place in the penal systems of modern civilised societies. Willingness to institute an immediate moratorium on executions, and to abolish the death penalty, is a precondition for accession to the Organisation", he said.

Belarus is not a member State of the 47 States Council of Europe. The Belarusian parliament's special guest status to the Parliamentary Assembly was suspended on 13 January 1997.

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).