

# Press Release

## Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

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## **PACE delegation to visit Moscow ahead of Russia's Presidential election**

Strasbourg, 01.02.2008 – A four-member delegation from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), headed by Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC), will make a pre-electoral visit to Moscow from 6 to 9 February 2008 to assess the run-up to the 2 March Presidential election.

The delegation, made up of representatives from four of the Assembly's five political groups, is due to meet all the official candidates, Andrey Bogdanov, Dmitry Medvedev, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Guennady Zyuganov, as well as Mikhail Kasyanov whose candidature has not been accepted by Russia's Central Election Commission.

The PACE team will also meet the Deputy Chair of the Central Election Commission Stanislav Vavilov, to discuss preparations for the poll, and will be briefed on the pre-electoral situation by representatives of civil society and the media, as well as a number of Council of Europe ambassadors in Moscow.

The members of the delegation are:

- Andreas Gross (Switzerland, Socialist Group), head of delegation
- Nadezhda Mikhaylova (Bulgaria, Group of the European People's Party)
- Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, European Democrat Group)
- Maria Postoico (Moldova, Unified European Left)

**The head of the delegation, Andreas Gross, will give a press conference at 4 p.m. on Friday 8th February 2008 at the premises of Interfax news agency (Pervaya Tverskaya-Yamskaya str. 2, Moscow).**

### **Contacts:**

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The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: Lluís Maria de Puig (Spain, SOC) ; 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).