

Press Release

Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

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PACE to observe the presidential election in Russia

Strasbourg, 22.02.2008 – A delegation of 25 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), led by Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC), will observe the presidential election in Russia on 2 March 2008.

The parliamentarians will arrive in Moscow on Wednesday 27 February to meet candidates standing for election, representatives of political parties and the head of the Russian parliamentary delegation to PACE. They will also have meetings with the Chair of the Central Election Committee, representatives of the media and NGOs and ambassadors, prior to observing the voting in a cross-section of polling stations.

A pre-election delegation, made up of five PACE members, issued a [statement](#) following its visit to Moscow on 7 and 8 February 2008 in which it expressed concern at the limited choice of candidates. "While the forthcoming election may appear competitive to some, with four candidates in the running, the real choice of alternatives is limited at best," the delegation said.

The head of the delegation will hold a **press conference at 11.30am on Monday 3 March at the National Hotel** (15/1 Mokhovaya Street, Moscow 125009) to present its preliminary conclusions.

[Provisional list of the members of the delegation](#)

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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: EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); SOC (Socialist Group); EDG (European Democratic Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).