

Press Release

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Death of Lord Russell-Johnston: PACE President pays tribute "to a great defender of moralpolitik in Europe"

Strasbourg, 28.07.2008 – Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) President, Lluís Maria de Puig, today expressed his deepest sadness and sorrow at the death of Lord Russell-Johnston, a former President of the Parliamentary Assembly from 1999 to 2002 and a member for twenty-three years, and extended his condolences to his family.

"It is a sad day for all defenders of justice, peace and humanity. He leaves a great void in the hearts of all Europeans who had the privilege of crossing his path. His passion for European politics and his sense of friendship will always remain", Lluís Maria de Puig said.

"We need *moralpolitik*, not *realpolitik*, was the message that guided him through his longstanding political career. Lord Russell-Johnston always behaved in a European way, basing attitudes on values. He worked relentlessly to extend the boundaries of human rights, because he was convinced that no other approach can so well secure peace, prosperity and freedom.

In the Council of Europe, we are proud of our values, principles and standards. May I thank Lord Russell-Johnston, on behalf of our Assembly, for his tremendous contribution for making Europe a more humane and better place", PACE President concluded.

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).