

Press Release

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PACE autumn session: consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia

Strasbourg, 18.09.2008 – An urgent debate on the consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia will be the main focus of the autumn session (*) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), to be held in Strasbourg from 29 September to 3 October 2008.

The debate will be in two parts: it starts on the morning of Tuesday 30 September and resumes on the morning of Thursday 2 October. As part of the run-up to the debate, an *ad hoc* committee will conduct a fact-finding visit to Georgia and Russia from 22 to 25 September.

Another highlight of the session will be the debate on the situation in Cyprus, on Wednesday 1 October. Demetris Christofias, President of the Republic of Cyprus, will address the Assembly on Tuesday 30 September, the day before the debate, and Mehmet Ali Talat, Leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community, will do so on 1 October.

Other personalities to address the Assembly include Haris Silajdžić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden, and Jorge Sampaio, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

The agenda also includes the honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina and by Serbia, the proposed 42 days' pre-charge detention in the United Kingdom and the OECD and the world economy.

(*) The Assembly will finalise its agenda only at the opening of the session.

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Draft agenda

Monday 29 September (opening at 11.30 am)

- Opening of the fourth part of the 2008 Ordinary Session
- Statement by the President of the Assembly
- Examination of credentials (including of any new members notified by national delegations, as well as a request to reconsider previously ratified credentials on substantive grounds). All challenges to credentials are referred to the appropriate committee for report, for a vote by the Assembly later in the session (possibly on Thursday 2 October).
- Election of Vice-Presidents of the Assembly with respect to Italy and Spain
- Address by Jorge Sampaio, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations
- Address by Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- Address by Jorge Pizarro, President of the Latin American Parliament
- Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee

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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).

Tuesday 30 September

- [Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Luxembourg](#)
- Possible urgent debate: The consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia
- Address by Demetris Christofias, President of the Republic of Cyprus
- Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly presented by Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, representing the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers
- Address by Haris Silajdžić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- [Honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights](#)

Wednesday 1 October

- Statement by Mehmet Ali Talat, Leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community
- [Situation in Cyprus](#)
- [OECD and the world economy](#) and statement by Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD
- [Refreshing the youth agenda of the Council of Europe](#) and statement by Nyamko Sabuni, Minister of Integration and Gender Equality, Sweden
- [Proposed 42 days pre-charge detention in the United Kingdom](#)

Thursday 2 October

- If urgent debate: The consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia (continued)
- Address by Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden
- [Honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia](#)
- [The situation of national minorities in Vojvodina and of the Romanian ethnic minority in Serbia](#)

Friday 3 October

- [Combating violence against women: towards a Council of Europe convention](#)
- [Indicators for media in a democracy](#)
- [For the promotion of a culture of democracy and human rights through teacher education](#)
- [Draft Council of Europe Convention on access to official documents](#)

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Practical information

Press conferences:

PACE President Lluís Maria de Puig will give a press conference on Monday 29 September at 10.45 am. Other press conferences will be announced on the spot.

Further details:

See the Assembly's website, <http://assembly.coe.int>. Additional information may also be found on the Council of Europe web portal, <http://www.coe.int/PASession>

For TV planning Units:

Videos in broadcast quality summing up PACE highlights can be downloaded for free at <http://dl.coe.int> around two hours after the event.

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