

Press Release

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PACE winter session: alleged secret detentions, crimes of totalitarian communist regimes, human rights violations in the Chechen Republic

Strasbourg, 12.01.2006 – Alleged secret detentions in Council of Europe member states, the need for international condemnation of the crimes of totalitarian communist regimes and human rights violations in the Chechen Republic are among subjects scheduled for debate during the Winter Session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) in Strasbourg from 23 to 27 January 2006.

The current affairs debate on alleged secret detentions is likely to take place on the morning of Tuesday 24 January at 10.30 a.m.¹ Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE), who is investigating these allegations, is due to give his interim assessment in an information memorandum to be made public at the opening of the debate.

Invited personalities include European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, Romanian President Traian Basescu, Bulgarian Prime Minister Serguei Stanishev and the President of the Mexican Senate Jackson Ramírez. Romanian Foreign Minister Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu will present the Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly, and Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis will give his annual communication on the state of the Council of Europe.

The President of the UN General Assembly Jan Eliasson will speak in a debate on the parliamentary dimension of the United Nations and Dutch Integration and Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk is due to take part in a debate on the policy of return for failed asylum seekers in the Netherlands.

Other topics on the agenda include combating the resurrection of Nazi ideology, the concept of "nation" and the honouring of Council of Europe obligations and commitments by Georgia. There may also be an urgent debate on "the situation in Belarus on the eve of the presidential election", to which the Chairman of the Belarus Chamber of Representatives Vladimir Konoplev and opposition leader Alexander Milinkevich would be invited.

Below is the draft order of business, updated to incorporate any proposed changes. The Assembly will decide on its final order of business at the opening of the session.

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¹ The debate was provisionally scheduled for 3 p.m. on Thursday 26 January, but PACE President René van der Linden has proposed that it takes place instead at 10.30 p.m. on Tuesday 24 January. The Assembly itself will make the final decision when it adopts its own order of business at the opening of the session.

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 315 members from the national parliaments of the 46 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Bruno Haller.

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).

Monday 23 January (3 p.m.)

- Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly
- Opening address by the President of the Assembly
- Examination of credentials
- Communication from Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on the state of the Council of Europe
- [Parliamentary dimension of the United Nations](#), statement by UN General Assembly President Jan Eliasson

Tuesday 24 January

- Address by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso
- Possible current affairs debate: Alleged secret detentions in Council of Europe member states
- [Europe's contribution to improving water management](#)
- Address by Bulgarian Prime Minister Serguei Stanishev
- [Implementation of Resolution 1415 \(2005\) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia](#)
- [Integration of immigrant women in Europe](#)

Wednesday 25 January

- [Human rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Ministers' responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns](#)
- Address by Romanian President Traian Basescu
- Statement by the President of the Mexican Senate Enrique Jackson Ramírez
- [Need for international condemnation of the crimes of totalitarian communist regimes](#)
- [Combating the resurrection of Nazi ideology](#)

Thursday 26 January

- Possible urgent debate: Situation in Belarus on the eve of the presidential election
- Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly presented by Romanian Foreign Minister and Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu
- [Policy of return for failed asylum seekers in the Netherlands](#), statement by Dutch Integration and Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk
- [The concept of "nation"](#)

Friday 27 January

- [Relocation of economic activities abroad and European economic development](#)
- [Implications for Europe of the economic resurgence of China](#)
- [Opinion](#) on the [draft protocol on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to state succession](#)

Practical information

PACE President René van der Linden will give a press conference on Monday 23 January at 11 a.m. in Room 1. Other press conferences will be announced on the spot.

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

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