

Press Release

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Parliamentary Assembly's spring session: Belarus, Turkey, Albania and Monaco

Strasbourg, 19.04.2004 - Disappeared persons and the persecution of the press in Belarus, the honouring of commitments by Turkey and Albania, and Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe top the agenda of the Assembly's spring session (Strasbourg, 26-30 April 2004).

Reports on the strengthening of the United Nations, on euthanasia and on the situation of European prisons and pre-trial detention centres will also be debated. There have been requests for urgent debates on the situation in Kosovo and the new Dutch policy on asylum-seekers.

Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader (Tuesday 27), Netherlands Prime Minister Peter Balkenende and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers Bernard Bot (Wednesday 28), and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev (Thursday 29) are among guest speakers.

Monaco National Council President Stéphane Valéri, Kazakhstan Senate Speaker Nurtay Abikayev (Tuesday 27), and the UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Kosovo Harri Holkeri (Thursday 29) will also address the Assembly.

Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, will give a **press conference on Monday 26 April at 11 a.m. (Room 1)**. Other press conferences will be announced on the spot.

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The following is a provisional order of business which may be altered by the Assembly on the first day of the session.

Monday 26 April

- Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee
- [A European Migration Observatory / Agency](#)
- [Budgets of the Council of Europe for the financial year 2005](#)
- [Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the financial year 2005](#)

Tuesday 27 April

- [Principality of Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe](#)
- Statement by Stéphane Valéri, President of the National Council of Monaco
- Address by Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of Croatia
- Statement by Nurtay Abikayev, Speaker of the Senate of Kazakhstan
- [Euthanasia](#)
- [Situation of European prisons and pre-trial detention centres](#)

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 626 members from the national parliaments of the 45 member states.

President: Peter Schieder (Austria, SOC); Secretary General of the Assembly: Bruno Haller.

Political Groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); LDR (Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' Group); EDG (European Democratic Group); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).

Wednesday 28 April

- [Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights](#)
- [Disappeared persons in Belarus](#)
- [Persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus](#)
- [Strengthening of the United Nations](#)
- Debate under urgent procedure: New Dutch policy on asylum seekers*
- Communication from the Committee of Ministers presented by Bernard Bot, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers
- Address by Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister of the Netherlands
- [Conflict prevention and resolution: the role of women](#)

Thursday 29 April

- [Possibly 2nd round] [Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights](#)
- Debate under urgent procedure: Situation in Kosovo*
- Statement by Hari Holkeri, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kosovo
- Address by Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan
- [Honouring of obligations and commitments by Turkey](#)
- [Honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania](#)

Friday 30 April

- [Draft Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights](#)
- [Draft additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, on biomedical research](#)
- [Future of social security in Europe](#)

* If the urgent procedure is decided by the Assembly.

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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