

# Press Release

## Parliamentary Assembly – Communication Unit

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### 47 member States

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
"The former Yugoslav  
Republic of  
Macedonia"  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom

### Statement by PACE President on the Durban Review Conference

Strasbourg, 22.04.2009 - "The emergence of various forms of intolerance and racism within our communities and in relations between nations is a cause for concern. The Durban Review Conference taking place in Geneva is proof that we need to step up our efforts to combat racism," said Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). "On the one hand, the Conference has shown us the determination of the international community to make progress in this field, but at the same time, it provides a platform for intolerant remarks presented as anti-racism. However, denial of the Holocaust is in itself a manifestation of racism and an incitement to hatred."

"Countries which wish to combat the rise in intolerance in all its forms, including xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism, must seize the opportunity to unite and adopt joint resolutions."

"The member states of the Council of Europe have for many years quite rightly considered the fight against racism to be an absolute priority."

The Declaration which has just been adopted in Geneva by over 100 member states of the United Nations is proof of the international community's commitment to combating racism. It is a success for countries which believe in dialogue and in the possibility of reaching an agreement which will outlast short-term political considerations. I hope that we can establish a common front against all forms of intolerance as rapidly as possible."

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 Democrat Group);

ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).