

Press Release

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47 member States

Albania
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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

PACE expects to choose among four existing candidates in election for Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 29.04.2009 – A proposal to draw up a list containing only two of the four candidates submitted by member governments for election to the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe should be reviewed, according to the Organisation's Parliamentary Assembly.

The Assembly is due to elect a new Secretary General in June from a list of names transmitted by the Committee of Ministers, which represents the Council of Europe's member governments.

But in a resolution adopted today following an urgent debate, the Assembly said it wanted to be able "to choose among the four existing candidates" and that shortlisting limited its right to choose.

The parliamentarians said the Committee of Ministers had added new provisions concerning the qualifications of the candidates for this post "without prior consultation" with the Assembly. Moreover this change had not been incorporated into the election regulations, which are agreed jointly with the Assembly.

They also said that in future the Committee of Ministers should ask member states to consider putting forward a female candidate.

The final decision on the list of candidates to be transmitted to the Assembly is due to be taken by the Committee of Ministers meeting in Madrid on 12 May.

[Resolution 1665 \(2009\)](#)

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).