

PACE 087 (2014)

## **PACE to observe the early presidential election in Ukraine**

Strasbourg 15.05.2014 – A 42-member delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), led by Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC), will travel to Ukraine from 23 to 26 May to observe the conduct of the early presidential election, alongside observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The delegation will meet, in particular, the candidates standing for the election, and representatives of the Central Election Commission, civil society and the media, before observing the ballot on 25 May.

A member of the Venice Commission – the Council of Europe's group of independent legal experts – will provide legal support during the visit.

In a [declaration dated 30 April](#), the PACE pre-electoral delegation said that "Ukraine needed a democratic and credible presidential election to establish legitimate political authority". It called on all Ukrainian citizens, whatever their political convictions or linguistic and regional sensibilities, "to play an active part in the election campaign and to participate in the forthcoming election". According to the pre-electoral delegation, any external interference in the domestic affairs of Ukraine and in the electoral process should be excluded, in order to guarantee the people's freedom to vote.

Speaking this week on behalf of the Assembly's Presidential Committee following a meeting in Luxembourg, PACE President [Anne Brasseur has also appealed](#) to all sides in Ukraine to put an immediate end to violence, ensure full respect for human rights and engage in a broad national dialogue.

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*A joint press conference is scheduled at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Kyiv on Monday 26 May (time to be confirmed)*

[List of delegation members](#)

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The Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.  
President: Anne Brasseur (ALDE) – Secretary General of the Assembly: Wojciech Sawicki.  
Political groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party);  
EDG (European Democrat Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe);  
UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).