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PACE President gravely concerned about reports of growing escalation of the conflict in Ukraine

"I am gravely concerned by the reports of escalation of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine and its implications for the two member states of the Council of Europe, Russia and Ukraine," said Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

"On Tuesday in Paris, I will meet with the Speaker of the Russian State Duma, Sergey Naryshkin, together with the leaders of the Parliamentary Assembly's political groups. These increasingly worrying developments, including reports of direct involvement or Russian troops will certainly be on the agenda. I will also make contacts with the Speaker of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada, Oleksandr Turchynov, in order to obtain clarification of unfolding events in the region."

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Practical information for the media:

<u>Photo opportunities</u> are scheduled on Tuesday 2 September in the Council of Europe Paris office (55, avenue Kléber, metro Boissière) at:

9:30 - Presidential Committee meeting

12:30 – Statements by PACE President Anne Brasseur and by the Speaker of the Russian Duma Sergey Naryshkin

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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).