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## **PACE President's 'shock and horror' at Moscow airport bombing, Assembly members stand for a minute's silence**

Strasbourg, 24.01.2011 – The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu issued a strong condemnation of today's bomb blast at Moscow's main airport as members of the Assembly – currently in session in Strasbourg – stood in silence for a minute to remember the victims.

"On behalf of the Assembly, I would like to express my shock and horror at the news of today's bombing, which has – according to reports – killed at least 31 people and injured more than 100 more. It seems that a suicide bomber may have been involved," the President said in a statement to the Assembly.

"I totally condemn the terrorists who carried out this atrocity, and I have full confidence that the Russian authorities will do everything they can to track down and bring to justice its perpetrators. Only this morning, I spoke of the scourge of extremism in our societies. There can be no justification for terrorism, which is utterly opposed to everything that we in the Council of Europe are working towards."

"To the families of the bereaved and injured on this terrible day, as well as to our Russian colleagues, I extend the heartfelt sympathy of the entire Assembly."

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, EDG) - 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).