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Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

Participation of members in Parliamentary Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings

Information memorandum¹

prepared by the Secretariat of the committee

1. Introduction

1. In Resolution 1583 (2007) on “Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings”, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted measures aimed at promoting improved participation by Assembly members in its activities and those of its committees. Paragraph 7 of the resolution provides for follow-up to the measures taken:

“7. The Assembly:

7.1. invites its Secretary General to continue observing closely the level of participation of members of national parliamentary delegations at plenary sessions, including during votes, and in the general committees of the Assembly, and to inform the Bureau of the Assembly and the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities regularly thereon;

7.2. invites the President of the Assembly to examine, with the speakers and political groups of the parliaments concerned, the possible consequences if, during one year following the adoption of this resolution, the average level of participation of national delegations in Assembly sittings, as shown by the signatures in the register of attendance, falls below 50% of their nominal strength;

7.3. resolves to review the Assembly’s committee structure, including the possible merger of committees, if, during the same period, there is no improvement in the level of participation in committees.”

2. The purpose of this memorandum is therefore to allow the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, in compliance with paragraph 7.1 of Resolution 1583, to consider relevant statistics on the following points:

- participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in plenary sessions,
- participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in votes during plenary sessions,

¹ Approved by the committee at its meeting on 24 January 2013.

- participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in the Assembly's general committees.

3. The memorandum also contains an initial analysis of these statistics, which may provide material for the discussion by the committee and the Bureau of the Assembly on the conclusions to be drawn.

4. Moreover, in paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583, the President of the Assembly is invited "to examine, with the speakers and political groups of the parliaments concerned, the possible consequences if... the average level of participation of national delegations in Assembly sittings... falls below 50% of their nominal strength".

5. Lastly, it should be recalled that, in 2011, the Assembly undertook a reform of its organisational structure and mode of operation, the aims of which included, in particular, strengthening its efficiency, as well as its political visibility and relevance, and improving the commitment and participation of its members. The reform led to several measures, including overhauling the structure of the committees, reduced from ten to eight, and their terms of reference, reorganising plenary sittings, with trimming of the agenda, improving the planning and grouping of committee meetings outside part-sessions.

2. Statistics

2.1. *Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in plenary sessions*

6. Statistics on the level of participation of national delegations for the four 2012 part-sessions (see Appendix I) show that the overall average level of participation of the members of the 47 delegations was 56.45%, which was slightly down on the past four years (57.99% in 2011, 58.76% in 2010, 58.23% in 2009, 56.92% in 2008, 52.13% in 2007 and 56.24% in 2006). Participation rates were over 50% for all the part-sessions, with the highest level at the January part-session (63.92%).

7. It shall be again pointed out that these "participation" rates are based on the signatures in the register of attendance and they do not reflect the actual presence of parliamentarians in the Assembly chamber or their actual participation in the debates. Members do not necessarily remain throughout the sitting for which they have registered, and this is not dependent on whether they are called on to speak.

8. A survey of the level of participation of the national delegations in the 2012 Assembly session shows large disparities between delegations, but there is no correlation between the level of participation and the size of the delegation. Some delegations' participation rates are consistently very high and eight have an average participation rate of more than 80% (Norway with 93.89%, Sweden with 90.28%, Switzerland with 86.57%, Andorra, Cyprus and Liechtenstein with 86.11%, the Republic of Moldova with 83.89%, and Luxembourg with 82.41%). Seven delegations were in this situation last year. However, 17 of the 47 delegations' average participation rates are less than 50% (the figure was 15 in 2011, 13 in 2010, 17 in 2009 and in 2008).

9. The 17 delegations affected by the measure provided for in paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583, with an average participation rate of less than 50%, are Romania (22.78%), Georgia (26.11%, without any representative at the October part-session), Malta (30.56%, without any representative at the January part-session), Albania (34.03%, without any representative at the April part-session), Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Slovak Republic (35%), Serbia (36.51%), Denmark (37.78%), Slovenia (37.96%), Greece (41.67%), Belgium (42.06%), Portugal (42.46%), San-Marino (43.06%), "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (43.52%), Germany (43.67%), Croatia (44.44%), and the Russian Federation (48.77%).

10. Looking at the last five years, it is worth noting that some delegations have a consistently high level of participation (Switzerland, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Armenia, Norway, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Turkey, Finland and Estonia), while others have a low or very low level of participation over the long term (Denmark, Georgia, Romania, Albania, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Belgium, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina). A recent worrying development is that the participation level of some large delegations (Germany and Italy) is also below the expected 50%. Germany's average

participation level between 2008 and 2012 was 46.15%² and Italy's was 46.57%³, while the other three large delegations with 36 members consistently achieve higher participation levels.

11. Moreover, some of the 15 delegations which had a participation rate less than 50% last year made efforts to curb the trend: Bosnia and Herzegovina (from 26.11% in 2011 to 35% in 2012), Cyprus (from 27.78% to 86.11%), Hungary (from 46.03% to 54.37%), Ireland (from 44.44% to 59.72%), Italy (from 36.27% to 50.31%), Spain (from 43.52% to 59.49%) and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (from 16.67% to 43.52%).

2.2. *Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in voting at plenary sessions*

12. There is still a very significant difference between the number of members signing the register of attendance and the number who actually take part in the votes at the sitting for which they have registered. In 2012, the participation rate of Assembly members in votes in plenary sittings was 29.30%, showing a steady increase in recent years (it was 28.34% in 2011, 25.59% in 2010, 25.35% in 2009, 22.51% in 2008, 23.01% in 2007 and 21.27% in 2006). While this steady increase in the participation of national delegations in voting in the Chamber is to be welcomed, one cannot hide the fact that over seven in 10 signatories do not take part in votes during the sittings for which they have registered.

13. Only seven delegations out of 47 had a participation rate of over 50% in votes (the figure was four in 2011 and 2010, but seven in 2009 and six in 2008): placed on top were the same four delegations in 2011 and 2010, i.e. Norway (which, with five seats, achieved the best figure with 87.25%), Sweden (six seats and 81.99%), Switzerland (six seats and 80.70%) and Liechtenstein (two seats and 80.20%), followed by Andorra (63.26%), the Republic of Moldova and Turkey (56.04%). A remaining worrying trend is the fact that 22 delegations' participation rates in votes were less than 25% (compared to 25 in 2011, 27 in 2010, 24 in 2009 and 23 in 2008). The worst results – with rates below 10% – were those of Greece, Albania and Romania (4.60%, 6.38% and 9.83% respectively). (see Appendix II).

14. Analysis of the statistics since 2008 shows that some delegations' participation in voting has substantially improved (for instance, Andorra's participation rose from 26.27% in 2011 to 63.26% in 2012, Cyprus from 22.16% to 40.44%, Finland from 7.37% to 38.79%, Hungary from 19.72% to 33.80%, Ireland from 5.01% to 24.58%, Iceland from 5.40% in 2009 to 47% in 2011 and 2012, the Republic of Moldova from 13.03% in 2009 to 56.04% in 2012, Montenegro from 3.64% in 2010 to 28.19% in 2012, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" from 9.38% in 2011 to 25.28% in 2012, Turkey from 19.24% in 2011 to 56.04% in 2012, while the figures for Azerbaijan, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Spain and Ukraine also improved. In contrast, other delegations' participation in votes has been declining steadily and regularly for some years now (Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Greece, Malta, Netherlands and Serbia).

15. Delegations which had the lowest participation rate in votes last year – Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" – also made genuine efforts to improve significantly their participation rates in the Assembly votes (with the exception of Romania, which did not manage to reverse the declining trend of its participation since 2010).

16. It is worth noting that there is no absolute correlation between the participation rate of national delegations as recorded in the register of signatures and the participation rate of the members of the same delegations in votes.⁴ It would be appropriate therefore to discuss matters more thoroughly with the delegations to establish why their members attend sessions but do not vote on the texts being debated.

² 43.67% in 2012, 44.91% in 2011, 50.31% in 2010, 43.89% in 2009 and 47.99% in 2008.

³ 50.31% in 2012, 36.27% in 2011, 56.94% in 2010, 60.01% in 2009 and 29.32% in 2008.

⁴ For example, the Greek delegation's participation rate in the 2012 session was 41.67%, but its members only rarely took part in votes (a rate of 4.60%). The same situation applied in 2011, with a session participation rate of 66.67%; and a voting participation rate of 10.74%.

17. As to individual voting, 44 members of the Assembly took part, on average, in more than 50% of the votes during the 2012 session⁵ (compared to 33 in 2011, 24 in 2010, 37 in 2009 and 31 in 2008).

18. During the 2012 session, the Assembly adopted 74 texts.⁶ 14 of the 58 texts adopted at plenary sessions were voted on by over 100 members on their final adoption (24%). This is encouraging compared to previous statistics (15% in 2011, 14% in 2010, 21% in 2009 and 13% in 2008), the record being the debate on “the honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation” (209 votes cast) – the best figure for a text adopted since 2006.⁷ The next most successful were the texts on “the definition of political prisoner” (176 votes cast) and on “Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: Who is responsible?” (151 votes cast).

19. It is worth noting that, if Assembly members’ interest in 2011 unexpectedly focused on questions of a more institutional nature, this year, by contrast, only debates on topical political issues (situation in Belarus, functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia, situation in Syria, impact of the economic and financial crisis) or controversial subjects (ethics in sport) have particularly captured the members’ attention. (see Appendix V).

20. However, many reports debated do not seem to achieve the expected level of interest among Assembly members. For instance, more than one in two texts were adopted with the votes of less than a quarter of Assembly members (32 of 58 texts – i.e. 55% – were adopted with less than 80 votes). This figure remains a cause for concern with regard to the Assembly political visibility and the effectiveness of its message.⁸

2.3. *Participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in meetings of general Assembly committees*

21. Resolution 1583 (2007) invites the Secretary General of the Assembly to observe the level of participation of members of national parliamentary delegations in the Assembly’s general committees.

22. Moreover, Rule 43.10 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure states that “*If (...) in the course of a parliamentary year*, the average level of participation of a national delegation in the meetings of a committee is below 33%, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly shall inform the President of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs and the chairperson of the national delegation concerned. The President of the Assembly shall bring this to the attention of the speaker of the national parliament concerned and the Bureau of the Assembly.*”

[* If during the reference year, parliamentary elections are held, the national delegation concerned may request that the reference time be prolonged by the Bureau up to a maximum of two years.]

23. The aim therefore was to observe, firstly, the average level of participation of each delegation in all the committees, taken as a whole, and, secondly, the average level of participation of each delegation in each separate committee. It goes without saying that while it is easy to analyse the statistics on delegations’ participation in all the committees taken together, the task of narrowing down the analysis to reveal the details of each delegation’s participation in the meetings of each committee is complex.

⁵ Incidentally, it should be noted that Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) is the only member of the Assembly who took part in all the votes in plenary in 2012 and 2011. He was already top of the list of “best voters” in 2009 and 2010 (with “scores” of 99.59% and 99.4% respectively).

⁶ 58 of these were adopted at Assembly part-sessions and 16 at Standing Committee meetings. The decrease of the number of adopted texts is due to the reduction in the number of reports presented to the Assembly, following the 2011 Assembly reform. In 2011, the Assembly adopted 115 texts (86 of which at plenary sessions); in 2010, 143 texts (98 of which at plenary sessions); in 2009, 109 texts (85 at part-sessions and 24 at Standing Committee meetings) and, in 2008, 83 texts (69 at part-sessions and 14 at Standing Committee meetings).

⁷ The previous “record” was held by the 2011 debate on the “inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo” (191 votes cast).

⁸ In 2011, 40 of 74 texts (54%) were adopted with less than 80 votes. In 2012, one text in four was adopted by less than 50 votes (27%) during plenary sessions (19% in 2011, and 32% in 2010).

24. As with the figures on participation in Assembly sessions, these statistics on participation in committee meetings should be viewed in the light of the fact that they only reflect the number of members who signed the register at the beginning of meetings, not their actual presence during them.

2.3.1. Participation levels in committee meetings by delegation

25. In 2012, the eight Assembly committees held a total of 63 meetings.⁹ The number of meetings has remained stable over the recent years despite budget cuts.

26. The overall level of participation of Assembly members in the Assembly's eight committees in 2012 was 56.08%, showing a significant improvement of the participation (48.02% in 2011, 47.10% in 2010, 47.92% in 2009 and 49.90% in 2008).

27. With more specific regard to the participation of national delegations in the meetings of the six committees where they are represented, the overall level of participation increased greatly in 2012 (at 56%), offering grounds for hope that the sharp decline seen in 2010 and 2011 has been reversed. The rate had fallen to 45.82% (2011) and 44.71% (2010), after rising in 2009 (54.82%) and in 2008 (50.37%) (see Appendix III).

28. Another encouraging step: as regards the average rates of participation in all committee meetings taken together 8 delegations only were below 33% (compared to 14 delegations in 2011, 18 in 2010, 9 in 2009 and 12 in 2008); in ascending order, they were:

- Albania, with a rate of 10.20%;
- the Slovak Republic, with a rate of 20.41%;
- San Marino and Serbia, with a rate of 22.45%;
- Malta and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, with a rate of 26.53%;
- Montenegro and Romania, with a rate of less than 33%.

29. 29 of the 47 delegations achieved average participation rates of 50% or more (15 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 25 in 2009 and 20 in 2008). Eleven delegations – Luxembourg, Cyprus, United Kingdom, Turkey, Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Finland, Spain, Switzerland and Greece – had averages of over 70% (only two delegations achieved the same good result last year).

30. The national delegations' levels of participation in committee meetings vary greatly;¹⁰ however, on the whole delegations made real efforts to ensure a better participation in the activities of committees.

31. In 2012, half of the committee meetings were held in Strasbourg (32 meetings out of 63). As in previous years, participation levels were better for meetings in Strasbourg (69%) than for meetings in Paris (45.32%) or elsewhere (37%). However, this result does need to be put in perspective, as there are certain special arrangements that apply to meetings in Strasbourg:

- each committee actually holds several meetings during session weeks, but they are counted as a single meeting and all the signatures are put together;
- the same member may go in turn to several committee meetings being held at the same time.

32. The number of meetings held in Paris or in places other than Paris or Strasbourg has remained more or less unchanged, with seven meetings being held outside France in 2012 (by only five of the eight committees).

33. However, some delegations only took part in meetings held during the part-sessions in Strasbourg (Albania, Malta, San Marino, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”), while several

⁹ The ten committees before the Assembly reform held 83 meetings in 2011, 82 in 2010 and 2009, 83 in 2008 and 94 in 2007.

¹⁰ The Albanian delegation did not participate in any of the meetings of three out of the six Assembly committees in 2012 (as in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011) (see Appendix III).

other delegations clearly gave precedence to meetings in Strasbourg, attending certain committee meetings in Paris or elsewhere more occasionally (Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic).

34. There are objective reasons for this situation. It is obvious that members belonging to small delegations cannot by themselves take on the heavy workload that participation in the work of all the committees would involve, and this is what accounts for some of the delegations' low participation rates. Moreover, several delegations are faced with budgetary problems which rule out long or over-frequent journeys.

2.3.2. Overall participation levels in meetings by committee¹¹

35. The 2011 reform of the Assembly seems to be starting to bear fruit since the measures which have been implemented, including the reduction in the number of committees, resulted in a significant increase of members' participation (see Appendix VI).

36. As to the level of participation by committee, seven committees out of eight recorded an overall figure of over 50% (compared to three committees out of ten in 2011). The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (66.14%) and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (62.43%) had both the highest participation rates, over 60%.

Next came the Monitoring Committee (59.69%), the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs (55.26%), the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (55.21%), the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (54.08%) and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (51.79%). The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination had the lowest participation rate – below 50% (44.05%).

3. Possible explanations

37. Every year for the last six years, the committee has examined the statistics on participation by members in the work of the Assembly and its committees, and looked for factors that might explain certain aspects, particularly when it was preparing the report on "Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings" in 2007 (see explanatory memorandum, Doc. 11295; paras. 31 to 41) and when it considered the information memoranda presented in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.¹² As it has already pointed out, some caution is required when interpreting raw statistics, which take no account in themselves of the valid reasons explaining parliamentarians' absence.

38. The main explanation given by national delegations was that members held a dual mandate and were sometimes required to stay in their national parliaments, or were called back for important debates. This point was emphasised most by the delegations of member States in which the government held only a narrow majority and was trying to introduce major constitutional or legislative reforms.

39. Delegations also pointed to budget cuts in their national parliaments, which accounted in particular for the absence of certain delegations for meetings held away from Strasbourg outside the sessions. This had been particularly true given the big impact of the ongoing global financial and economic crisis lasting since 2008 on the budget of parliaments in many member States. Some delegations admitted that they had decided to stop sending substitutes to sit in the Assembly or on committees.

40. Moreover, as already mentioned, some small delegations regularly refer to the fact that their members cannot ensure regular participation in all the meetings of all the committees.

¹¹ The statistics provided concern the participation of committee members in meetings of their committees in the strict sense and do not take account of conferences and seminars held by those committees, which sometimes nevertheless are attended by very large numbers of participants.

¹² See documents AS/Pro (2008) 13, AS/Pro (2009) 21, AS/Pro (2010) 21 and AS/Pro (2012) 02.

41. Mention was also made of the fact that, in election years, it was impossible for members to take part in Assembly activities when they were required to stay in their constituencies for the election campaign. Six of the 17 delegations whose average participation rate in the Assembly part-sessions was less than 50% in 2012 were in an election year (Georgia, Greece, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and the Slovak Republic). This is an entirely valid explanation, which may account for the depleted ranks of these delegations during the part-session preceding or following (pending the appointment of a new delegation) those national elections, but it does need to be put in perspective and should not be used to justify the absence of members throughout a whole year. Several delegations whose members were also involved in election campaigns in their countries continued to participate in Assembly activities in good numbers (Armenia, France, Netherlands, Ukraine, with average session participation rates of over 50%).

42. It is necessary here to underline the importance of national parliaments renewing their national delegations to the Assembly as quickly as possible, as the late renewal of delegations has a significant impact on rates of participation in Assembly activities.¹³

43. On 26 October 2012, the President of the Assembly sent a letter to all the Speakers or Presidents of national parliaments, in which he mentioned, *inter alia*, the need to promote measures which may facilitate members' participation. Several speakers had replied (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Norway, Serbia, Spain and United Kingdom), pointing to the commitment and interest in active participation of their parliament in Assembly activities, while recalling the difficulty in conciliating agendas of parliamentarians who are members of both assemblies.

4. Conclusions

44. Statistics on delegations' participation in Assembly sessions have evened out at a reasonable level in recent years – implying the regular participation of one Assembly member in two; however, the participation rate of members in votes in plenary sittings and the participation rate in committees have considerably improved, to levels above those seen since 2001 at least.

45. This positive result can be unquestionably credited to the reform of the Assembly, which entered into force on 23 January 2012. However, it cannot overshadow some worrying concerns. At the same time, the low participation of members of national delegations in voting at plenary sessions, in spite of some improvement, weakens the Assembly's political influence, as is sometimes pointed out by the Committee of Ministers. The latter sometimes plays down the position of the Assembly, pointing out that its statutory opinions and recommendations are adopted by small numbers of members.

46. The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs held an exchange of views on the basis of this memorandum, and considered, in accordance with Resolution 1583 (2007), the conclusions which might be drawn from the analysis of the statistics on delegations' participation.

47. The committee decided to transmit this memorandum to the Bureau of the Assembly, containing the following proposals, for appropriate follow-up:

– The committee invites the President of the Assembly to inform the chairpersons of the delegations and the speakers of the parliaments concerned by low participation rates (Rule 43.10 of the Rules of Procedure and paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583), *i.e.*:

. the 17 delegations affected by the measure planned under paragraph 7.2 of Resolution 1583 (average participation rate in Assembly sittings below 50%): Romania, Georgia, Malta, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Slovak Republic, Serbia, Denmark, Slovenia, Greece, Belgium, Portugal, San-Marino, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Germany, Croatia and the Russian Federation; and

¹³ Under the Rules of Procedure (Rule 10.3), parliaments are required to appoint members of the new delegations within six months of parliamentary elections. During 2010 and 2011, however, there has been a significant increase in the time taken to renew parliamentary delegations. 2012 has not confirmed this trend.

. the 8 delegations affected by the measure planned under Rule 43.10 (average participation rate in committee meetings below 33%): Albania, the Slovak Republic, San Marino, Serbia, Malta, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Montenegro and Romania.

The President could write to the speakers of the parliaments concerned or arrange a meeting with the chairpersons of the relevant delegations – preferably on an individual basis – in order to enquire about the reasons of a low participation.

— Lastly, the committee suggests that the statistics related to the participation of national delegations be made publicly available on the Assembly’s website, as was done last year.

APPENDIX I

Participation of national delegations in the Assembly part-sessions in 2012

Country	Number of members	Average presence (signatures) January 2012	Average presence (signatures) April 2012	Average presence (signatures) June 2012	Average presence (signatures) October 2012	Average presence (signatures) 2012	Rank
Albania	4	47,22%	0,00%	25,00%	63,89%	34,03%	44
Andorra	2	100,00%	66,67%	83,33%	94,44%	86,11%	4
Armenia	4	97,22%	16,67%	66,67%	94,44%	68,75%	16
Austria	6	74,07%	68,52%	55,56%	74,07%	68,06%	17
Azerbaijan	6	55,56%	44,44%	53,70%	62,96%	54,17%	27
Belgium	7	55,56%	41,27%	49,21%	22,22%	42,06%	37
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	26,67%	44,44%	55,56%	13,33%	35,00%	42
Bulgaria	6	87,04%	16,67%	61,11%	64,81%	57,41%	25
Croatia	5	44,44%	37,78%	62,22%	33,33%	44,44%	32
Cyprus	2	83,33%	88,89%	83,33%	88,89%	86,11%	4
Czech Republic	7	88,89%	38,10%	79,37%	77,78%	71,03%	14
Denmark	5	51,11%	35,56%	31,11%	33,33%	37,78%	40
Estonia	3	55,56%	85,19%	96,30%	77,78%	78,70%	9
Finland	5	86,67%	75,56%	68,89%	62,22%	73,33%	13
France	18	74,07%	75,31%	58,64%	71,60%	69,91%	15
Georgia	5	51,11%	24,44%	28,89%	0,00%	26,11%	46
Germany	18	60,49%	34,57%	23,46%	56,17%	43,67%	33
Greece	7	71,43%	6,35%	31,75%	57,14%	41,67%	38
Hungary	7	66,67%	42,86%	52,38%	55,56%	54,37%	26
Iceland	3	59,26%	74,07%	55,56%	48,15%	59,26%	22
Ireland	4	61,11%	52,78%	50,00%	75,00%	59,72%	20
Italy	18	61,11%	40,12%	55,56%	44,44%	50,31%	30
Latvia	3	74,07%	70,37%	85,19%	70,37%	75,00%	11
Liechtenstein	2	100,00%	50,00%	94,44%	100,00%	86,11%	4
Lithuania	4	91,67%	100,00%	16,67%	52,78%	65,28%	18
Luxembourg	3	77,78%	81,48%	88,89%	81,48%	82,41%	8
Malta	3	0,00%	51,85%	29,63%	40,74%	30,56%	45
Republic of Moldova	5	82,22%	82,22%	80,00%	91,11%	83,89%	7
Monaco	2	83,33%	100,00%	72,22%	44,44%	75,00%	11
Montenegro	3	66,67%	55,56%	66,67%	14,81%	50,93%	29
Netherlands	7	60,32%	50,79%	55,56%	63,49%	57,54%	24
Norway	5	100,00%	97,78%	95,56%	82,22%	93,89%	1
Poland	12	56,48%	52,78%	49,07%	52,78%	52,78%	28
Portugal	7	50,79%	38,10%	53,97%	26,98%	42,46%	36
Romania	10	40,00%	10,00%	11,11%	30,00%	22,78%	47
Russia	18	39,51%	48,15%	47,53%	59,88%	48,77%	31
San Marino	2	61,11%	55,56%	22,22%	33,33%	43,06%	35
Serbia	7	53,97%	14,29%	42,86%	34,92%	36,51%	41
Slovak Republic	5	20,00%	22,22%	17,78%	80,00%	35,00%	42
Slovenia	3	18,52%	33,33%	51,85%	48,15%	37,96%	39
Spain	12	45,37%	60,19%	62,04%	70,37%	59,49%	21
Sweden	6	85,19%	88,89%	94,44%	92,59%	90,28%	2

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Switzerland	6	81,48%	81,48%	96,30%	87,04%	86,57%	3
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	3	55,56%	29,63%	44,44%	44,44%	43,52%	34
Turkey	12	90,74%	84,26%	59,26%	72,22%	76,62%	10
Ukraine	12	76,85%	52,78%	59,26%	48,15%	59,26%	22
United Kingdom	18	71,60%	61,11%	58,64%	56,79%	62,04%	19
	317	63,62%	50,89%	53,87%	57,41%	56,45%	

APPENDIX II

Participation of national delegations in voting at the Assembly part-sessions in 2012

Country	Votes cast in 2012	Seats		Rank
Albania	76	4	6,38%	46
Andorra	377	2	63,26%	5
Armenia	294	4	24,66%	26
Austria	481	6	26,90%	23
Azerbaijan	366	6	20,47%	32
Belgium	363	7	17,40%	37
Bosnia and Herzegovina	212	5	14,23%	40
Bulgaria	479	6	26,79%	24
Croatia	303	5	20,34%	33
Cyprus	241	2	40,44%	11
Czech Republic	779	7	37,34%	14
Denmark	213	5	14,30%	39
Estonia	437	3	48,88%	8
Finland	578	5	38,79%	12
France	1526	18	28,45%	21
Georgia	161	5	10,81%	43
Germany	1032	18	19,24%	35
Greece	96	7	4,60%	47
Hungary	705	7	33,80%	16
Iceland	429	3	47,99%	10
Ireland	293	4	24,58%	27
Italy	1198	18	22,33%	29
Latvia	257	3	28,75%	20
Liechtenstein	478	2	80,20%	4
Lithuania	455	4	38,17%	13
Luxembourg	316	3	35,35%	15
Malta	96	3	10,74%	44
Republic of Moldova	835	5	56,04%	6
Monaco	287	2	48,15%	9
Montenegro	252	3	28,19%	22
Netherlands	467	7	22,39%	28
Norway	1300	5	87,25%	1
Poland	738	12	20,64%	31
Portugal	318	7	15,24%	38
Romania	293	10	9,83%	45
Russian Federation	1184	18	22,07%	30
San Marino	120	2	20,13%	34
Serbia	245	7	11,74%	42
Slovak Republic	191	5	12,82%	41
Slovenia	168	3	18,79%	36
Spain	1180	12	33,00%	17
Sweden	1466	6	81,99%	2
Switzerland	1443	6	80,70%	3
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	226	3	25,28%	25
Turkey	2004	12	56,04%	6
Ukraine	1121	12	31,35%	18
United Kingdom	1599	18	29,81%	19

APPENDIX III

Participation in committee meetings in 2012 (6 committees)

Country	no of members in committee	Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	Committee on Equality and Non Discrimination	Average level of participation	Rank
Number of meetings in 2012		9	8	9	7	8	8		
Albania	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	10,20%	47
Andorra	1	4	5	3	6	3	5	53,06%	28
Armenia	1	7	5	7	5	5	3	65,31%	13
Austria	2	14	11	8	7	9	11	61,22%	17
Azerbaijan	2	10	10	16	10	9	6	62,24%	16
Belgium	2	10	10	15	11	4	7	58,16%	21
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	5	4	5	6	1	6	55,10%	25
Bulgaria	2	12	3	15	8	0	1	39,80%	36
Croatia	1	5	4	1	7	4	1	44,90%	32
Cyprus	1	5	7	6	6	8	6	77,55%	2
Czech Republic	2	8	3	9	1	5	8	34,69%	39
Denmark	1	3	3	3	4	1	4	36,73%	37
Estonia	1	8	6	7	2	5	3	63,27%	15
Finland	1	8	5	6	3	7	6	71,43%	8
France	4	28	22	24	19	19	15	64,80%	14
Georgia	1	3	3	6	1	7	2	44,90%	32
Germany	4	19	25	24	10	10	3	46,43%	31
Greece	2	13	11	14	6	7	7	59,18%	19
Hungary	2	15	8	9	7	10	8	58,16%	21
Iceland	1	6	1	8	4	0	3	44,90%	32
Ireland	1	7	5	6	2	3	4	55,10%	25
Italy	4	28	15	27	21	30	16	69,90%	11
Latvia	1	7	5	10	4	5	5	73,47%	6
Liechtenstein	1	5	4	4	4	7	3	55,10%	25
Lithuania	1	4	3	6	2	3	3	42,86%	35
Luxembourg	1	6	8	8	6	6	7	83,67%	1
Malta	1	4	2	0	3	2	2	26,53%	42
Republic of Moldova	1	3	7	7	5	0	4	53,06%	28
Monaco	1	7	8	6	3	0	4	57,14%	23
Montenegro	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	32,65%	40
Netherlands	2	12	8	14	8	11	3	57,14%	23
Norway	1	4	4	8	4	5	8	67,35%	12
Poland	3	16	17	26	16	20	13	73,47%	6
Portugal	2	10	5	4	5	7	5	36,73%	37
Romania	3	10	7	12	5	7	5	31,29%	41
Russian Federation	4	21	22	26	10	22	15	59,18%	19
San Marino	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	22,45%	44
Serbia	2	8	0	8	3	1	2	22,45%	44
Slovak Republic	1	4	2	1	2	0	1	20,41%	46
Slovenia	1	5	6	5	3	3	1	46,94%	30
Spain	3	17	12	26	15	18	17	71,43%	8
Sweden	2	17	10	12	9	14	11	74,49%	5
Switzerland	2	14	15	13	9	12	7	71,43%	8

"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	1	4	1	3	0	3	2	26,53%	42
Turkey	3	21	16	23	17	18	16	75,51%	4
Ukraine	3	18	10	22	9	13	16	59,86%	18
United Kingdom	4	31	28	30	25	20	16	76,53%	3
Participation:	84	472	371	500	318	348	296	56,00%	
Participation (%):		62,43	55,21	66,14	54,08	51,79	44,05		

APPENDIX IV**Average participation in votes**

Part-session	Votes cast	Number of votes	Average participation	
January 2007	20 596	203	101	32.01%
April 2007	15 901	182	87	27.56%
June 2007	11 272	149	76	23.86%
October 2007	4 219	68	62	19.57%
Total 2007	51 988	602	86	27.24%
January 2008	5 477	69	79	25.04%
April 2008	14 109	115	123	38.70%
June 2008	7 818	111	70	22.22%
October 2008	11 514	123	94	29.53%
Total 2008	38 918	418	93	29.37%
January 2009	13 144	131	100	31.65%
April 2009	11 801	133	89	27.99%
June 2009	7 967	103	77	24.40%
October 2009	11 483	121	95	29.94%
Total 2009	44 395	488	91	28.70%
January 2010	14 403	183	79	24.83%
April 2010	6 795	111	61	19.31%
June 2010	7 394	101	73	23.09%
October 2010	9 201	104	88	27.91%
Total 2010	37 793	499	76	23.89%
January 2011	9 391	90	104	32.92%
April 2011	4 729	67	71	22.27%
June 2011	8 131	97	84	26.44%
October 2011	5 689	76	75	23.61%
Total 2011	27 940	330	85	26.71%
January 2012	7 748	85	91	28,75%
April 2012	5 844	66	89	27,93%
June 2012	5 853	73	80	25,29%
October 2012	9 257	74	125	39,46%
Total 2012	28 702	298	96	30,38%

APPENDIX V – list of texts adopted by the Assembly in 2012, by descending order of the number of votes

- *The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation* - Resolution 1896 (2 October, 209 votes)
- *The definition of political prisoner* - Resolution 1900 (3 October, 176 votes)
- *Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: Who is responsible?* - Resolution 1872 (24 April, 151 votes)
- *The situation in Belarus* - Resolution 1857 and Recommendation 1992 (25 January, 127 and 132 votes)
- *Austerity measures – a danger for democracy and social rights* - Resolution 1884 (26 June, 129 votes*)
- *The young generation sacrificed: social, economic and political implications of the financial crisis* - Resolution 1885 and Recommendation 2002 (26 June, 122 and 116 votes*)
- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina* - Resolution 1855 (24 January, 120 votes)
- *The situation in Syria* - Resolution 1878 (26 April, 109 votes)
- *The impact of the economic crisis on local and regional authorities in Europe* - Resolution 1886 (26 June, 108 votes*)
- *The need to combat match-fixing* - Resolution 1876 and Recommendation 1997 (25 April, 105 and 104 votes*)
- *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia* - Resolution 1858 (25 January, 102 votes)
- *Good governance and ethics in sport* - Resolution 1875 (25 April, 98 votes*)
- *The European response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria* - Resolution 1902 (4 October, 95 votes)
- *The functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine* - Resolution 1862 (26 January, 91 votes)
- *The crisis of democracy and the role of the State in today's Europe* - Resolution 1888 (27 June, 91 votes*)
- *The right to freedom of choice in education in Europe* - Resolution 1904 (4 October, 90 votes)
- *Promoting the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* - Resolution 1861 (26 January, 87 votes*)
- *Political parties and women's political representation* - Resolution 1898 (3 October, 86 votes*)
- *Ensuring greater democracy in elections* - Resolution 1897 (3 October, 85 votes*)
- *Crisis of transition to democracy in Egypt* - Resolution 1892 (28 June, 83 votes)
- *Advancing women's rights worldwide* - Resolution 1860 (26 January, 82 votes*)
- *The right of everyone to take part in cultural life* - Recommendation 1990 (24 January, 82 votes)
- *The portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns* - Resolution 1889 (27 June, 76 votes*)
- *Restoring social justice through a tax on financial transactions* - Resolution 1905 (4 October, 73 votes)
- *Equality between women and men: a condition for the success of the Arab Spring* - Resolution 1873 and Recommendation 1996 (24 April, 72 and 68 votes)
- *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Montenegro* - Resolution 1890 (27 June, 72 votes)
- *The situation of IDPs and returnees in the North Caucasus region* - Resolution 1879 (26 April, 69 votes)
- *Enforced population transfer as a human rights violation* - Resolution 1863 (27 January, 67 votes)
- *Code of conduct of members of the Parliamentary Assembly: good practice or a core duty?* - Resolution 1903 (4 October, 66 votes)
- *Promoting an appropriate policy on tax havens* - Resolution 1881 (27 April, 63 votes)
- *The protection of freedom of expression and information on the Internet and online media* - Resolution 1877 and Recommendation 1998 (25 April, 59 and 58 votes)

- *Guaranteeing the authority and effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights* - Resolution 1856 and Recommendation 1991 (24 January, 56 and 55 votes)
- *Political transition in Tunisia* - Resolution 1893 (28 June, 55 votes)
- *Protecting human rights and dignity by taking into account previously expressed wishes of patients* - Resolution 1859 and Recommendation 1993 (25 January, 56 and 54 votes)
- *The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States* - Resolution 1891 (27 June, 47 votes)
- *Follow-up by the Committee of Ministers to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly* - Resolution 1880 and Recommendation 1999 (26 April, 44 and 46 votes)
- *The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (June 2011-May 2012)* - Resolution 1895 (29 June, 45 votes)
- *The promotion of active citizenship in Europe* - Resolution 1874 (24 April, 44 votes)
- *Multiple discrimination against Muslim women in Europe: for equal opportunities* - Resolution 1887 (26 June, 44 votes)
 - *The inadmissibility of restrictions on freedom of movement as punishment for political positions* - Resolution 1894 (29 June, 44 votes)
- *Decent pensions for all* - Resolution 1882 and Recommendation 2000 (27 April, 39 and 41 votes)
- *Human rights and foreign policy* - Resolution 1901 and Recommendation 2004 (3 October, 40 and 40 votes)
- *Demographic trends in Europe: turning challenges into opportunities* - Resolution 1864 (27 January, 40 votes)
- *The consolidation and international openness of the European Higher Education Area* - Resolution 1906 and Recommendation 2005 (4 October, 39 and 38 votes*)
- *Governance of higher education institutions in the European Higher Education Area* - Resolution 1907 (5 October, 39 votes*)
- *Roma migrants in Europe* - Recommendation 2003 (28 June, 31 votes)

(* - votes taken together in the framework of joint debates)

APPENDIX VI – participation in committee meetings

Committee	2006		2007		2008	
	number of plenary meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of plenary meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of plenary meetings	average level of participation (in %)
Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	11	49,51%	10	52,98%	9	65,88%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	10	49,16%	10	47,62%	8	57,29%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	9	46,99%	9	32,40%	9	35,58%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	7	54,04%	8	43,30%	8	48,22%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	9	44,71%	9	40,74%	7	45,24%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	10	36,63%	9	29,99%	9	46,85%
Monitoring Committee	10	43,41%	10	44,59%	9	52,72%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	8	22,55%	8	25,96%	5	47,41%
	74	43,38%	73	39,70%	64	49,90%

Committee	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	number of plenary meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of plenary meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of plenary meetings	average level of participation (in %)	number of plenary meetings	average level of participation (in %)
Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	9	63,22%	9	60,58%	9	61,51%	9	62,43%
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	9	52,78%	9	52,91%	9	59,66%	9	66,14%
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	9	34,92%	9	37,30%	8	41,07%	8	55,21%
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	7	47,62%	8	41,22%	8	45,09%	8	51,79%
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	8	44,79%	7	46,26%	8	43,90%	7	54,08%
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	8	40,18%	8	36,76%	8	34,82%	8	44,05%
Monitoring Committee	9	54,91%	9	57,75%	10	55,81%	9	59,69%
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	7	44,97%	5	44,05%	7	42,33%	5	55,25%
	66	47,92%	64	47,10%	67	48,02%	63	56,08%