We must continue to work tirelessly to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law, both on the European continent and beyond in the face of rising extremism, violence and repression, and in a context in which migration and security are very strained issues.

The President of the Assembly therefore has an important role to play in advocating values such as justice, integrity and cohesion, while speaking out against exclusion, hate and an atmosphere of one against all.

The difficult institutional and financial context in which our Assembly finds itself also requires us to strengthen our values of transparency, responsibility and commitment to the democracy that we defend.

In order to resist the adverse winds both externally and internally, the Assembly needs a President with strong convictions and experience.

These convictions and experience I gladly place at the service of our Assembly. In accordance with our values of equality, the protection of minorities and in the belief that I represent all our parliamentarians, I am very honoured to have been elected to this position.

Liliane Maury Pasquier
President of the Parliamentary Assembly

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the world’s second-largest parliamentary assembly, is the democratic voice of the European continent. It brings together 250 members from the continent’s parliaments to defend and promote human rights, democracy, freedom of expression and cultural diversity. It debates, appraises, and adopts resolutions on current issues such as human rights, security, and the rule of law. It applies the European Convention on Human Rights and its associated protocols.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is the world’s second-largest parliamentary assembly. It brings together 250 members from the continent’s parliaments to defend and promote human rights, democracy, freedom of expression and cultural diversity. It debates, appraises, and adopts resolutions on current issues such as human rights, security, and the rule of law. It applies the European Convention on Human Rights and its associated protocols.

The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the world’s second-largest parliamentary assembly, is the democratic voice of the European continent. It brings together 250 members from the continent’s parliaments to defend and promote human rights, democracy, freedom of expression and cultural diversity. It debates, appraises, and adopts resolutions on current issues such as human rights, security, and the rule of law. It applies the European Convention on Human Rights and its associated protocols.
TO HONOUR THEIR HELPING STATES COMMITMENTS

A MELTING POT OF IDEAS

Since 1949, PACE, which is sometimes said to be the driving force of the Council of Europe, has been behind many of the Organisation’s major initiatives (the European Convention on Human Rights, for instance). It must be consulted about initiatives (the European Convention on Human Rights), for instance). It must be consulted about drafts of texts submitted by the Committee of Ministers). The Assembly adopts three types of texts: recommendations (to the Committee of Ministers), resolutions (which express its own viewpoint) and opinions (on membership applications, draft treaties and other texts submitted by the Committee of Ministers). They are Greater Europe’s democratic conscience.

To what extent do countries honour their commitments? The Assembly monitors the situation and endeavours to help States to honour their obligations. If a State persistently fails to do so, the Assembly may refuse to ratify, or may withdraw its consent to ratification, or may make trips to monitor elections. PACE is constantly developing its parliamentary diplomacy and promoting the active involvement of parliaments in international relations.

CONCRETE RESULTS

PACE members visit periodic field sites throughout Europe to collect information from which to draft Assembly reports. They also make trips to monitor elections. PACE is constantly developing its parliamentary diplomacy and promoting the active involvement of parliaments in international relations.

HOW IT WORKS

PACE meets four times a year for a week-long plenary session in the Palais de l’Europe in Strasbourg. The 324 representatives and 324 substitutes, who are elected every four years in accordance with the representation principle, are elected by the national parliaments of the Council of Europe’s 47 member states. They meet four times a year to discuss topical issues and ask European governments to take specific action and report back. These parliaments speak for the 800 million Europeans who elected them. They bring the issues of their choice, and the governments of European countries – those which are represented at the Council of Europe by the Committee of Ministers – are obliged to respond. They are Greater Europe’s democratic conscience.

Building Parliamentary Partnerships

The parliamentarians who make up PACE come from the national parliaments of the Organisation’s 47 member states. They meet four times a year to discuss topical issues and ask European governments to take specific action and report back. These parliaments speak for the 800 million Europeans who elected them. They bring the issues of their choice, and the governments of European countries – those which are represented at the Council of Europe by the Committee of Ministers – are obliged to respond. They are Greater Europe’s democratic conscience.

Helping States to Honour Their Commitments

The Assembly’s work is prepared by nine committees which are elected by the PACE plenary. The nine committees are:

• Political Affairs and Democracy
• Legal Affairs and Human Rights
• Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
• Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
• Culture, Science, Education and Media
• Equality and Non-Discrimination
• Relations of Organisations and Committees by Member States (Monitoring)
• Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Matters
• Elections of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

The Assembly’s work is prepared by nine committees which are elected by the PACE plenary. The nine committees are:

• Political Affairs and Democracy
• Legal Affairs and Human Rights
• Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
• Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
• Culture, Science, Education and Media
• Equality and Non-Discrimination
• Relations of Organisations and Committees by Member States (Monitoring)
• Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Matters
• Elections of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

To what extent do countries honour their commitments? The Assembly monitors the situation and endeavours to help States to honour their obligations. If a State persistently fails to do so, the Assembly may refuse to ratify, or may withdraw its consent to ratification, or may make trips to monitor elections. PACE is constantly developing its parliamentary diplomacy and promoting the active involvement of parliaments in international relations.

The parliamentarians who make up PACE come from the national parliaments of the Organisation’s 47 member states. They meet four times a year to discuss topical issues and ask European governments to take specific action and report back. These parliaments speak for the 800 million Europeans who elected them. They bring the issues of their choice, and the governments of European countries – those which are represented at the Council of Europe by the Committee of Ministers – are obliged to respond. They are Greater Europe’s democratic conscience.

Building Parliamentary Partnerships

The parliamentarians who make up PACE come from the national parliaments of the Organisation’s 47 member states. They meet four times a year to discuss topical issues and ask European governments to take specific action and report back. These parliaments speak for the 800 million Europeans who elected them. They bring the issues of their choice, and the governments of European countries – those which are represented at the Council of Europe by the Committee of Ministers – are obliged to respond. They are Greater Europe’s democratic conscience.

Helping States to Honour Their Commitments

The Assembly’s work is prepared by nine committees which are elected by the PACE plenary. The nine committees are:

• Political Affairs and Democracy
• Legal Affairs and Human Rights
• Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
• Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
• Culture, Science, Education and Media
• Equality and Non-Discrimination
• Relations of Organisations and Committees by Member States (Monitoring)
• Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Matters
• Elections of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

The Assembly’s work is prepared by nine committees which are elected by the PACE plenary. The nine committees are:

• Political Affairs and Democracy
• Legal Affairs and Human Rights
• Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
• Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
• Culture, Science, Education and Media
• Equality and Non-Discrimination
• Relations of Organisations and Committees by Member States (Monitoring)
• Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Matters
• Elections of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights