Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 1503 (2006)[1]

Obligation of new members of the Assembly relating to the aims and basic principles of the Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

1. In its Resolution 1443 (2005) on the challenge of credentials of individual members of a national delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly on substantive grounds, the Parliamentary Assembly agreed to consider inserting a provision in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly stating that the credentials of the members of a national delegation can only be accepted upon the making or signing of a solemn statement by the individual members affirming to subscribe to the aims and the basic principles of the Council of Europe. It also instructed the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities to elaborate the modalities for the insertion of the necessary provisions in the Rules.

2. Given the Assembly's position in the institutional system of the Council of Europe and the fact that it acts through its members, it may reasonably be expected from the individual members of the Parliamentary Assembly that they subscribe to the aims and the basic principles of the Council of Europe, as they are mentioned in the Preamble, in Article 1.a and in Article 3 of the Statute.

3. When credentials are forwarded to the Assembly by the competent national authorities, they should be accompanied by statements of individual members that they subscribe to the aims and basic principles of the Council of Europe. Should a member refuse to make such a statement, a specific provision of the Rules of Procedure should allow for contesting the credentials of that member.

4. This new provision should only apply to members having joined the Assembly after the adoption of this resolution.

5. Consequently, the Assembly decides to:

5.1. insert the following new sub-paragraph in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly after Rule 6.2: "Credentials of members of a national delegation shall be accompanied by a signed written statement by the individual members reading as follows: 'I, the undersigned, …, hereby affirm and state that I will subscribe to the aims and basic principles of the Council of Europe, mentioned in the Preamble, in Article 1.a and in Article 3 of the Statute of the Council of Europe'.";

5.2. insert the following new indent in the Rules of Procedure, after Rule 7.1.b: "the absence of a solemn statement as mentioned in Rule 6.2.b".

6. The Assembly also decides that the new provisions shall enter into force at the opening of the January 2007 partsession.[2]

1. Text adopted by the Standing Committee acting on behalf of the Assembly on 29 May 2006 (see Doc. 10865, report of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, rapporteur: Mr Van Overmeire).
2. At the opening of that part-session, credentials of Representatives and Substitutes submitted to the Assembly will need to be accompanied by a signed written declaration. Thereafter, all new Assembly members will have to sign such a declaration