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20 April 2013

President's activities between the first and the second part of the Ordinary session of 2013

Communication

President of the Assembly

1. Visits and meetings

1.1. First part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (21-25 January 2013)

1.1.1. Personalities met

- Mr Saboya Sunye, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra
- M. Mikheil Saakachvili, President of Georgia
- Mr Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy
- Ms Paola Severino, Minister of Justice of Italy
- Mr Nimrod Barkan, Ambassador of Israel to the Council of Europe
- Mr Wu Jianmin, Ambassador of China
- Mr Eric Hauteclouque-Raysz, General, Military Governor of Strasbourg
- Ms Marta Smolikova, Executive Director, Vaclav Havel Library, and Mr Janouch, Vaclav Havel Foundation, Prague
- Ms Eugenia Tymoshenko.

1.1.2. Meetings and events

I chaired the following meetings:

- Joint meeting between the Presidential Committee and the Committee Chairpersons (20 January 2013)
- Meeting of the Presidential Committee (20 January 2013)
- Meetings of the Bureau of the Assembly
- Meeting with the Heads of national delegations
- Meeting of Chairpersons of the ad-hoc committees for the observation of elections.

I also

- participated in the opening of the exhibition « 40 years of women in the political world of Andorra »
- laid a wreath at the Monument to the dead soldiers of the City of Strasbourg
- participated in a ceremony in commemoration of the Holocaust.



1.2. Meetings in Strasbourg (29-30 January 2013)

I held meetings with:

- Mr Trevor Stevens, Executive Secretary, **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)**
- Mr Iraklis Asteriadis, Ambassador of Greece
- Mr Thomas Hajnoczi, Ambassador of Austria
- Mr Emin Eyyubov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan
- Mr Charles-Edouard Held, Ambassador of Switzerland
- Mr Julius Georg Luy, Ambassador of Germany
- Mr Patrick Pincet, Special adviser to the Mayor of Strasbourg and to the President of the Urban Community of Strasbourg

1.3. Exchange of views with the Ministers' Deputies (30 January 2013)

I held an exchange of views, which has now become a tradition, with the Ministers' Deputies on the results of the 2013 first part-session and other activities of the Parliamentary Assembly.

1.4. Working meetings in Brussels (6 February 2013)

On this occasion, I met with:

- Mr Didier Reynders, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium
- Mr Torbjørn Frøysnes, Ambassador, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Brussels
- Representatives of Amnesty International and of Human Rights Watch.

1.5. Working meetings in London (12-15 February 2013)

On 13 and 14 February 2013, I paid a working visit to London, where I had meetings with Baroness D'Souza, Lord Speaker, Mr Nigel Evans, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr Richard Ottaway MP, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Dr Hywell Frances MP, Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and his colleagues. I also met with the Rt Hon David Lidington, UK Minister for Europe, the Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP, Attorney General for England and Wales, Lord Boswell, Chair of the European Union Committee of the House of Lords, as well as with the Rt Hon Lord Mance, Justice of the Supreme Court. During my visit I also had the opportunity to meet with the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and its Chairperson, Mr Robert Walter, whom I would especially like to thank for his hospitality and for the contacts that he was kind enough to arrange for me.

Our talks focused on relations between the United Kingdom and the European Court of Human Rights. We discussed in particular the questions of execution of judgments of the Court, of the selection of judges and the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights. We also addressed the subject of progress made regarding frozen conflicts.

1.6. Official visit to Luxembourg (18-20 February 2013)

At the invitation of the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr Laurent Mosar, I made an official visit to Luxembourg from 18 to 20 February 2013. During the visit, I met the Prime Minister, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr Laurent Mosar, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Jean Asselborn, the Minister for Justice, Mr François Biltgen, the members of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Co-operation and Immigration, chaired by Mr Ben Fayot, the Luxembourg delegation to the PACE and the Ombudsperson for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Ms Lydie Err. I also had an audience with His Royal Highness the Grand Duke.

The subjects addressed during the talks included, in particular, the role of national parliaments in implementing the judgments handed down by the European Court of Human Rights, the reform of the Court, the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), Luxembourg's ratification of certain Council of Europe treaties and the reform of the Council of Europe and relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

We also discussed the contribution that parliamentary diplomacy can make to the solution of frozen conflicts and the Parliamentary Assembly's important role in this respect.

On 20 February 2013, I had a very fruitful exchange of views with the President of the European Court of Justice, Mr Vassilios Skouris, concerning the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. As the Court of Justice will be required to give an opinion on any agreement concluded by the Council of Europe and the European Union on the subject, I found it most interesting to hear the judges' opinions on the process and the issues which still have to be clarified prior to the EU's accession.

Lastly, I should like to extend my warmest thanks to the Luxembourg Parliament for organising the visit so well and to all my discussion partners for their firm support for the Council of Europe and its work to promote democracy and human rights.

1.7. Official visit to Romania (24-27 February 2013)

In the wake of the political crisis of July 2012 in Romania and the parliamentary elections that followed on 12 December 2012, I decided to return to Bucharest on 25-26 February 2013 in order to discuss the political developments that had taken place in the country since.

I welcome the intelligent manner in which this crisis has been resolved. At the peak of the political upheaval in July 2012, the Presidential Committee carried out a visit to Bucharest, during which we discussed the situation with the highest representatives and made various recommendations. Over the summer I issued four press statements expressing concern at developments in the country. I observe with satisfaction now that a number of our recommendations have been followed to the letter and that the parliamentary elections, the organisation of which has been deemed irreproachable, contributed positively to ending the stalemate and to normalising the political cohabitation, thereby reflecting the country's democratic maturity.

Certainly tensions remain and problems persist, notably as regards the stability of the constitutional order, the separation of power, independence and reform of the judiciary or the fight against corruption, but the country appears to be on the right track. I received reassurances that the constitutional reform was well underway, with a consultative forum having been recently launched to encourage active dialogue and input from the civil society. The parliament has also undertaken to elaborate a new electoral code well ahead of the next planned elections, and new modifications to the statute of parliament have been submitted to the Constitutional Court.

During this visit, I had the occasion to discuss these various issues with Mr Traian Băsescu, President of the Republic, Mr Victor Ponta, Prime Minister of Romania, Mr Valeriu Zgonea, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr Crin Antonescu, President of the Senate, and also Mr Titus Corlăţean, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mrs Mona Pivniceru, Minister of Justice. I also held talks with the heads of parliamentary groups of the government coalition and opposition leaders, and delivered a combined address to the two chambers of the Romanian Parliament.

I am convinced that Romania is destined to play a more important role in Europe in the future. In my various discussions, I emphasised the pivotal role played by the Romanian authorities in regional stability, in particular at a time of political deadlock in the Republic of Moldova but also in helping solve the frozen conflicts in Europe.

In the light of all the discussions held, I was particularly delighted by the confirmation by Prime Minister Mr Victor Ponta of his willingness and availability to address the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at the next part-session in April 2013.

1.8. Conference at the United Nations on « The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls », meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations and other bilateral meetings (New York, 3-5 March 2013)

I participated in the 57th Committee on the Status of Women held at the United Nations. I delivered a speech at the side event coorganised by the Council of Europe and the Permanent Representation of France to the United Nations on the theme: "Violence against women: our preoccupation, our response". Mr Guilbert Saboya Sunyé, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, as well as Ms Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, French Minister for Women's rights, also participated in the opening session of this event.

On this occasion, I met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon. I also had a series of bilateral meetings, namely with the President of the 67th General Assembly, Mr Vuk Jeremić, the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, in charge of

intergovernmental support and strategic partnerships, Ms Lakshmi Puri, the Permanent Representative of France, Mr Gérard Araud, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, Mr Vitaly I. Churkin, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel, Mr Haim Waxman, the Permanent Observer of Palestine, Mr Riyad H. Mansour and the specialist for political questions, Africa II division, of the Department of political affairs, Ms Denise O'Brien.

1.9. Meetings in Paris (between 5 February and 6 March 2013)

- 5 February 2013
 - Russian-French Grand Committee: meeting with Mr Narychkine, President of the State Duma
- 7 February 2013
 - Mr Karim Ghellab, President of the Chamber of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco
- 11 February 2013
 - Ms Catherine Lalumière, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 - Mr Bernard Kouchner, former French Minister for Foreign Affairs
 - Mr Jacques Faure, Ambassador of France, Representative for France at the Minsk Group
 - University of Paris I, Sorbonne: presentation of a speech to students
- 12 February 2013
 - Mr Charles H. Rivkin, Ambassador of the United States of America in France
 - Mr Nicolas de Rivièrè, Director for UNO and international organisations, human rights and the French-speaking world at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
 - Mr Raphaël Alomar, Governor of Development Bank of the Council of Europe
- 27 February 2013
 - Mr Claude Bartolone, President of the French National Assembly
 - European Committee of the French National Assembly: presentation of the summary of the 1st year of my presidency
- 6 March 2013
 - Mr Laurent Fabius, Minister for Foreign Affairs of France

1.10. Official visit to Serbia (11-13 March 2013)

During my official visit to Serbia from 11 to 13 March 2013, I met the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Nebojša Stefanović, the Prime Minister, Mr Ivica Dacić, the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ms Vera Mavrić, the Minister for Justice, Mr Nikola Selaković, and the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, as well as the Serbian delegation to the PACE and representatives of Serbian civil society.

In particular, I had the honour of addressing the Serbian National Assembly. In my speech, I welcomed the major progress made by Serbia in honouring the commitments and obligations it entered into upon becoming a member of the Council of Europe, in particular in terms of the reform of the electoral system and the judicial system, devolution, minority rights and the ratification of a large number of European conventions. I urged the authorities to take action in the areas where further efforts are required, namely strengthening the judicial system so that it becomes truly independent and effective, enhancing media freedom and stepping up the fight against corruption and discrimination.

I spoke very openly about the situation regarding Kosovo*¹, which remains a very sensitive issue, and welcomed the constructive approach of the Serbian government concerning the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. I also pointed out that in our resolution on “the situation in Kosovo* and the role of the Council of

1. * All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Europe", we had called for the competent authorities in Kosovo* to be able to be directly involved in the implementation of the Council of Europe's activities and programmes and for our own dialogue with the representatives of the political forces elected to the Assembly of Kosovo* to be stepped up.

My comments were received constructively. However, the Speaker of the National Assembly requested that the representatives of the Serbian minority in Kosovo* be included in the representatives of the political forces elected to the Assembly of Kosovo* who will henceforth be invited to the Parliamentary Assembly's plenary sessions.

During the visit, I gave my full support to Serbia's goal of obtaining a date for the opening of negotiations for accession to the European Union and underlined that the Council of Europe was ready to do everything in its power to help Serbia achieve the progress needed in that area.

1.11. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize launch ceremony (Prague, 25 March 2013)

I visited Prague on 25 March 2013 to take part in the launch ceremony for the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, which aims to reward outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights in Europe and beyond. The prize will be awarded every year by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in partnership with the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation.

During my visit, I signed a co-operation agreement with the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation concerning the establishment of the prize. The agreement was signed at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in the presence of the Minister, Mr Karel Schwarzenberg, who also announced that the Czech Republic would make an annual contribution of 30 000 euros to the prize.

I am absolutely delighted that we have been able so quickly to establish this prize, which will be awarded for the first time during the Assembly's fourth part-session this autumn.

1.12. Official visit to Ukraine (26-28 March 2013)

During my official visit to Kyiv from 26 to 28 March 2013, I met the President of the Republic, Mr Viktor Yanukovich, the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, Mr Volodymyr Rybak, the Prime Minister, Mr Mykola Azarov, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Leonid Kozhara, and the Minister for Justice, Mr Olexander Lavrinovich, as well as the leaders of the main political parties and the chair of the committee for the rule of law and justice, Mr Sergei Kivalov.

I also met Ms Eugenia Tymoshenko, the daughter of the former Prime Minister, and Ms Irina Lutsenko, the wife of the former Interior Minister, as well as their lawyers.

During my various meetings and, in particular, my very constructive meeting of over two hours with the President, I welcomed the clear willingness expressed by Ukraine's highest authorities scrupulously to respect their obligations and commitments to the Council of Europe, as well as the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. I said that respect for these commitments was an essential stage on Ukraine's path to European integration.

I invited the authorities to pursue reform without hesitation or delay, ensuring that constitutional reform was among the main priorities. I also underlined that we are expecting tangible results regarding the other priorities, namely revising the laws critical for the smooth functioning of justice, in particular the law on the office of the prosecutor and the laws on the judicial system and the status of judges, as well as reform of the police and improvements planned for electoral legislation. I encouraged Ukraine to intensify its co-operation with Council of Europe bodies in carrying out these reforms, especially with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

Concerning imprisoned former government members, I called on the authorities swiftly to find a solution, in line with Council of Europe principles, to the problems arising from the selective application of justice – primarily, the emblematic cases of Ms Tymoshenko and Mr Lutsenko – and to reform the legal system to avoid any repeat of these problems. I also pointed out that Ukraine had committed itself to respect the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

In the context of Ukraine's current chairmanship of the OSCE, I raised the issue of solving Europe's frozen conflicts, in particular the one in Transnistria. I am pleased by the support that I received, in particular from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, for promoting parliamentary diplomacy and specifically for my initiative of a dialogue between representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the Transnistrian Supreme Soviet, and for holding a first meeting in Ukraine as part of this initiative.

1.13. Official visit to Finland (2-3 April 2013)

During my visit I met Mr Eero Heinäluoma, Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Mr Paavo Arhinmäki, Minister for Culture and Sport, Mr Pertti Torstila, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Timo Soini, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Mr Johannes Koskinen, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Law of the Parliament.

I also had talks with Mr Jussi Pajuojja, Deputy Parliamentary Ombudsman and Ms Elisabeth Naucclér, Chair of the Human Rights Group of the Finnish Parliament, as well as with representatives of youth organisations and the Finnish delegation to the PACE, chaired by Ms Susanna Huovinen.

During my talks I hailed Finland's immense contribution to the Council of Europe since its accession in 1989, in the monitoring procedure of the Parliamentary Assembly, the creation of the office of Commissioner for Human Rights, championing our values on the international scene, and good human rights practices which it applies and which make Finland one of the world's most developed countries in that respect.

I especially commended the Finnish government's actions on behalf of young people, and I congratulated Finland on being one of the countries that annually stages a youth parliament which is consistent with the same logic as that of the Council of Europe Youth Assembly. I welcomed in particular the Finnish government's "guarantee for youth" initiative, a partnership between the public and private sectors put in place early in 2013. In a context of high youth unemployment, this initiative aims to prevent their social exclusion by guaranteeing them access to a job, to studies or to vocational training within three months after loss of a job.

In addition, children's rights were central to our discussions, with the unanimous conclusion that children's interests must be paramount in all decisions concerning them.

Finally, I emphasised Finland's contribution to the advancement of women's rights in Europe, and I strongly encouraged the Finnish authorities to set the example yet again by speedily ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

1.14. Official visit to Norway (4-5 April 2013)

During this visit I was received in an audience by Harald V, King of Norway; I also met Mr Dag Terje Andersen, President of the Storting (Norwegian Parliament), Ms Ine Eriksen Søreide, Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ms Gry Larsen, State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian delegation to PACE, chaired by Ms Karin S. Woldseth.

I had other talks with Ms Marit Nybakk and Mr Per-Kristian Foss, President and Vice-President of the Nordic Council, with Mr Geir Lundestad, Director of the Nobel Institute, and Ms Ana Perona-Fjeldstad, Director of the European Wergeland Centre.

I commended Norway's active role in the Council of Europe since it was created, its substantial financial support to various projects, and I urged my interlocutors to continue working to make the Organisation still more reactive and political in its approach and to respond fittingly to the challenges facing Europe. A tangible expression of this contribution is the next European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments to be held in Oslo in the autumn of 2014.

I also welcomed the activities of the European Wergeland Centre (a resource centre for education in intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship), set up by the Norwegian authorities and the Council of Europe, which deserve to be widely known.

During my meeting with the President and Vice-President of the Nordic Council, we decided to join in launching practical initiatives in Belarus, in order to strengthen co-operation with the representatives of civil society who sustain and defend the values of the Council of Europe, particularly for the benefit of the young generations. This resolve to act together is part and parcel of the ambition to energise the co-operation agreement which the PACE and the Nordic Council have carried on since 1989.

In 2014 Norway will celebrate the bicentenary of its Constitution, the oldest written constitution in Europe. I stressed its extraordinary alignment to our times, which makes it a remarkable example of how a constitution can lend political and social stability to a country, without depending on political vagaries and contingent majorities.

At the end of the visit I declared that Norway, marked by its culture of tolerance and dialogue, and with its long tradition of actions in the cause of peace, could contribute effectively to the safeguarding and promotion of our values in the countries where democracy and human rights are put to the test.

1.15. Speech before the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) and the joint PACE/ IPA CIS Conference on: The role of parliamentary organisations in building a Europe without dividing lines (St Petersburg, 10-12 April 2013)

In St Petersburg, I chaired the ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly which took part in the conference on "The role of parliamentary organisations in building a Europe without dividing lines", jointly organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the PACE. In particular, I delivered a speech on "The role of parliaments in protecting and promoting human rights" at the opening of that conference.

During the event, I held a bilateral meeting with Mrs Valentina Matviyenko, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and also Speaker of the IPA CIS, *inter alia* to discuss the different aspects of cooperation between the PACE and the Federation Council.

In a declaration made jointly with Mrs Matviyenko at the end of the conference, we welcomed the cooperation between our two parliamentary assemblies, which is an excellent example of parliamentary diplomacy. Among other things, we also expressed satisfaction that regular consultations are now organised between the heads of IPA CIS and PACE election observation teams, permitting exchanges of views on election campaigning and the running of the electoral process.

In parallel to the Conference, I held bilateral meetings with the Speakers of the parliaments of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

I also had an informal meeting with the delegation of the Parliament of Belarus which was participating in the joint conference. I stressed the importance of dialogue while pointing out that any progress in this direction was possible only if the Belarusian authorities undertook to respect our values and standards. More specifically, I asked the Parliament of Belarus to cooperate in good faith with our rapporteur, Mr Herkel, and allow him to visit the country. I also proposed to suggest several possible avenues for initiating dialogue to the Bureau, for discussion, which include establishing contact with the group within the Belarus Parliament dealing with the death penalty issue, inviting representatives of the Parliament for an exchange of views with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, participating in the seminar now being prepared on religions and the death penalty in Minsk, or setting up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau, comprising representatives from all the political groups, to examine channels for developing dialogue.

1.16. Conference of Ministers of Culture on: "Governance of Culture – Promoting Access to Culture" and bilateral meetings (Moscow, 15-16 April 2013)

I continued my visit to Russia in Moscow, where I took part in the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture. Within the framework of that conference following the overall theme of governance of culture and ways of promoting access to it, I chaired the first of the three sessions focusing on the "Role of governments: new challenges and opportunities".

In my address during the opening of the session, I emphasised that the right of access to culture and the right of everyone to participate in cultural life were core human rights, as they are prerequisites for enabling all of us to become fully aware of our own identity. I also put forward a number of ideas to stimulate discussion, including the need to have a system to protect creative work, particularly on the Internet.

At the end of the proceedings, I gave a press conference alongside the Russian Minister of Culture and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

I also held bilateral talks with Mr Sergey Naryshkin, Speaker of the State Duma, and Aleksey Meshkov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The subjects discussed included the stepping up of contact between the PACE and the Russian State Duma and the functioning of monitoring procedures within the PACE. We also discussed Russia's contribution to resolving frozen conflicts in Europe, the Council of Europe's neighbourhood (including the situation in Syria), the reform of the Council of Europe and relations between the Council and Belarus.

I am delighted to report that, at the end of our meeting, the Speaker of the State Duma accepted my invitation to address the members of the PACE at the session in October 2013.

2. Press releases

1. Jean-Claude Mignon, re-elected President of PACE, presents his priorities for 2013 (21 January 2013)
2. PACE President calls for vigilance in the face of rising Euro-scepticism and populism (22 January 2013)
3. PACE President welcomes liberation of Florence Cassez (23 January 2013)
4. Jean-Claude Mignon and Štefan Füle: our close co-operation is a powerful tool to support deep-rooted democracy and transformation (24 January 2013)
5. Jean-Claude Mignon: "the memory of the holocaust means we must oppose the resurgence of xenophobia" (25 January 2013)
6. Tunisia: PACE President condemns murder of Chokri Belaid (6 February 2013)
7. Attack at the Turkey-Syria border (11 February 2013)
8. PACE President makes official visit to Luxembourg (15 February 2013)
9. PACE President's visit to Luxembourg focuses on the role of parliaments in resolving frozen conflicts and the role of the European Court of Human Rights (21 February 2013)
10. PACE President on official visit to Romania (25 February 2013)
11. PACE President addresses the Romanian parliament (26 February 2013)
12. Jean-Claude Mignon: 'Acceptance of cohabitation in Romania reflects that country's democratic maturity' (25 February 2013)
13. PACE President to meet Ban Ki-moon in New York (4 March 2013)
14. Jean-Claude Mignon: 'The promise to end violence against women is a commitment which must be honoured' (5 March 2013)
15. Jean-Claude Mignon and Ban Ki-moon reiterate their desire to work together (6 March 2013)
16. PACE President to make official visit to Serbia (8 March 2013)
17. PACE President supports Serbia on the path to European integration (12 March 2013)
18. PACE President congratulates Pope Francis on his election (14 March 2013)
19. PACE President welcomes PKK leader's call for a truce (21 March 2013)
20. PACE President makes official visit to Ukraine (22 March 2013)
21. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize launched in Prague (25 March 2013)
22. Respect for Council of Europe commitments is an 'essential stage' on Ukraine's path to European integration (27 March 2013)
23. PACE President makes official visit to Finland (28 March 2013)
24. PACE President makes official visit to Norway (28 March 2013)
25. Jean-Claude Mignon welcomes Finnish government action to help young people (3 April 2013)
26. Norway can help to make the Council of Europe more responsive and more political (5 April 2013)
27. PACE President welcomes liberation of Yuri Lutsenko in Ukraine (8 April 2013)
28. PACE delegation to attend St Petersburg conference on role of parliamentary organisations (10 April 2013)
29. PACE President to visit Moscow for the Conference of Culture Ministers (11 April 2013)
30. 'An excellent example of parliamentary diplomacy' (12 April 2013)
31. Jean-Claude Mignon in Moscow: culture is a 'priceless treasure' which could help to revive Europe (15 April 2013)
32. Boston explosions: PACE President condemns 'a despicable act' (16 April 2013)

33. Russian State Duma Speaker to address PACE in October (17 April 2013)
34. PACE President pays tribute to the Jewish resistance fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto 70 years ago (18 April 2013)

3. Speeches

1. Opening speech of the 1st part of the ordinary session of 2013 (21 January 2013)
2. Welcome speech to Mr. Saakashvili, President of Georgia (21 January 2013)
3. Laudatio homage for Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, former President of PACE (21 January 2013)
4. Welcome speech to Mr Gilbert Saboya, Minister for foreign affairs of Andorra, President of the Committee of Ministers (21 January 2013)
5. Laudatio for M. György Frunda, Ms Hermine Naghdalyan et Mr Serhiy Holovaty (21 January 2013)
6. Welcome speech to M. Thorbjørn Jagland, General Secretary of the Council of Europe (22 January 2013)
7. Welcome speech to Ms Paola Severino, Minister of Justice of Italy (22 January 2013)
8. Speech on the occasion of the International Day of commemoration of the holocaust (24 January 2013)
9. Welcome speech to Mr Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European neighbouring policy (24 January 2013)
10. Speech before the Deputies of the Committee of Ministers (30 January 2013)
11. Speech before the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania (25 February 2013)
12. Speech at the event organised by the Council of Europe and the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations on the theme: "Violence against women: our concern, our response", which was held on the sidelines of the 57th session of the Commission on the status of women (New York, 4 March 2013)
13. Words of welcome to Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the Office of democratic institutions and human rights (ODIHR) (Paris, 8 March 2013)
14. Speech before the Parliament of Serbia (Belgrade, 12 March 2013)
15. Speech at the official launch of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize (Prague, 25 March 2013)
16. Speech before the Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (St Petersburg, 11 April 2013)
17. Speech at the opening of the Conference on « The role of parliamentary organisations in building a Europe without dividing lines», organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) (St Petersburg, 12 April 2013)
18. Speech at the 10th Conference of Ministers of Culture of the Council of Europe (Moscow, 15 April 2013)