



Doc. 16378

17 April 2026

Out-of-country voting

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Lord David BLENCATHRA and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Out-of-country voting has grown significantly in recent years. Currently, 41 Council of Europe member States offer various options: voting at diplomatic missions, by post, proxy, or through pilot electronic systems. In several countries, diaspora votes now make up a substantial share of the total vote, increasingly shaping domestic results.

While new technologies and increased diaspora mobilisation have expanded voting opportunities abroad, they have also revealed vulnerabilities. These include manipulation risks, foreign interference, disinformation, unregulated online campaigning, and a lack of transparency in campaign funding.

The design and implementation of out-of-country voting methods can also be seen as ways to influence diaspora votes, eroding trust in electoral integrity. Countries have expanded, limited, or banned postal voting or the number of overseas polling stations. Observation rules for out-of-country voting also vary widely across Europe.

Given the varied approaches and lack of international standards, the Parliamentary Assembly should call on member States to:

- safeguard electoral integrity for all voters, including those abroad;
- tackle the specific jurisdictional, logistical, procedural, and technological challenges of out-of-country voting;
- take steps to mitigate associated risks and vulnerabilities.

The Assembly should invite the Venice Commission to draft guidelines to strengthen electoral integrity for out-of-country voters in all Council of Europe member States.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
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UEL: Group of the Unified European Left