Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 16381
19 April 2026

A strong response to the Epstein files: ensuring full transparency and accountability

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Pablo HISPÁN and other members of the Assembly

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

The release of the 'Epstein Files' in November 2025 revealed the extent of Jeffrey Epstein's influence and outreach in political, diplomatic, academic and business circles worldwide.

It is shocking that many individuals in positions of leadership continued to maintain close ties with Epstein even after his conviction for sexual offences in 2008 became public knowledge. Among these figures was Thorbjørn Jagland, then Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Mr Jagland led the Council of Europe at a pivotal moment in its history, characterised by strained relations between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Russian Federation due to the latter's illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea, as well as its aggression against the Donbass — two regions under Ukrainian sovereignty.

The revelations in the Epstein filles do not only point to exploitation, trafficking, rape, abuse, outright toxic misogyny but also to structural vulnerabilities affecting democratic systems. These include insufficient transparency, weak oversight of lobbying and conflicts of interest, and the ability of informal networks to gain privileged access to, and influence, decision-making processes.

Full investigations should be carried out into the information emerging from the Epstein files. The victims of the sexual exploitation promoted by this network must be protected and compensated, and full criminal — and, where applicable, political — accountability must be ensured for those involved.

The Parliamentary Assembly should examine the broad implications of the Epstein files and make recommendations to strengthen safeguards against undue influence and conflicts of interest, enhance transparency and oversight, and reinforce accountability.

To protect the credibility of the Council of Europe as an organisation that promotes democratic governance and the highest integrity standards in public life, the Assembly should support the internal investigation launched within the Council of Europe and the inquiries being conducted by Norway.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

HISPÁN Pablo, Spain, EPP/CD
BEGIC Denis, Sweden, SOC
BODNAR Adam, Poland, EPP/CD
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL
CORLĂŢEAN Titus, Romania, SOC
DALLE Benjamin, Belgium, EPP/CD
DALLOZ Marie-Christine, France, EPP/CD
DAVIDOVICI Natalia, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
EDER-GITSCHTHALER Andrea, Austria, EPP/CD
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
EMRE Yunus, Türkiye, SOC
FERČIKOVÁ KONEČNÁ Irena, Czechia, SOC
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GÖKÇEN Gökçe, Türkiye, SOC
GÖTHBERG Gustaf, Sweden, EPP/CD
GRYFFROY Andries, Belgium, ALDE
IKIĆ BANIČEK Kristina, Croatia, SOC
JEVGRAFOV Aleksei, Estonia, ALDE
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
LEYTE Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
NAGY Szabolcs, Romania, EPP/CD
NÉMETH Zsolt, Hungary, ECPA
NOWICKA Wanda, Poland, SOC
PAVIĆ Marko, Croatia, EPP/CD
POLAT Filiz, Germany, SOC
PRAMMER Agnes Sirkka, Austria, SOC
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, SOC
RĂDUCANU Sebastian, Romania, SOC
ROBLES Gonzalo, Spain, EPP/CD
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SPĂTARU Elena-Simona, Romania, ALDE
STAMATIS Georgios, Greece, EPP/CD

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
ECPA: European Conservatives, Patriots and Affiliates
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left