

Petra De Sutter, Chairperson, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Serhii Kiral, First Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mart Ven, Second Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs – Chairperson, Dutch National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ingjerd Schou, Third Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs – Chairperson, Norwegian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Thorhildur Sunna Aevarsdottir, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Volodymyr Arieu, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

Raphael Comte, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Titus Corlatean, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs – Chairperson, Romanian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Saban Disli, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Daphne Dumery, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Roger Gale, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs – Chairperson, United Kingdom National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Nino Gogvadze, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and

Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Vladyslav Golub, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Morgens Jensen, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Haluk Koc, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Edward Leigh, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Michael Link, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

George Loucaides, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Yuliya Lovochnikina, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Matern Marschall, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Marianne Mikko, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs – Chairperson, Estonian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Jordi Roca, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Armen Rustamyan, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Stefan Schennach, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Nicole Trisse, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs – Chairperson, French National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Yildirim Tugrul Turkes, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Egidijus Vareikis, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Evangelos Venizelos, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Nikolaj Villumsen, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Johann Wadephul, Member, Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ervin Bushati, Chairperson, Albanian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Carles Jordana, Chairperson, Andorran National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Arpine Hovhannisyan, Chairperson, Armenian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Werner Amon, Chairperson, Austrian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Samad Seyidov, Chairperson, Azeri National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Hendrik Daems, Chairperson, Belgian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Senad Sepic, Chairperson, Bosnian and Herzegovinian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Dzhema Grozdanova, Chairperson, Bulgarian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Sanja Putica, Chairperson, Croatian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Stella Kyriakides, Chairperson, Cypriot National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Miroslava Nemcova, Chairperson, Czech National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Michael Aastrup Jensen, Chairperson, Danish National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Maria Guzenina, Chairperson, Finnish National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Tamar Chugoshvili, Chairperson, Georgian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Andreas Nick, Chairperson, German National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ioanneta Kavvadia, Chairperson, Greek National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Zsolt Nemeth, Chairperson, Hungarian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Rosa Bjork Brynjolfsdottir, Icelandic National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Joseph O'Reilly, Chairperson, Irish National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Inese Libina-Egnere, Chairperson, Latvian National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Susanne Eberle-Strub, Chairperson,
Lichtenstein National Delegation,
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of
Europe
Algirdas Butkevicius, Chairperson,
Lithuanian National Delegation, Parliamentary
Assembly of the Council of Europe
Yves Cruchten, Chairperson, Luxembourg
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Emanuel Mallia, Chairperson, Maltese
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Marian Lupu, Chairperson, Moldovan
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Jose Badia, Chairperson, Monaco National
Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the
Council of Europe
Predrag Sekulic, Chairperson, Montenegrin
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Wlodzimierz Biernacki, Chairperson, Polish
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Ana Catarina Mendes, Chairperson,
Portuguese National Delegation, Parliamentary
Assembly of the Council of Europe

Vanessa D'Ambrosio, Chairperson, San
Marino National Delegation, Parliamentary
Assembly of the Council of Europe
Aleksandra Tomic, Chairperson, Serbian
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Lubos Blaha, Chairperson, Slovak National
Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the
Council of Europe
Ksenija Korenjak Kramar, Chairperson,
Slovenian National Delegation, Parliamentary
Assembly of the Council of Europe
Soraya Rodriguez Ramos, First Vice-
Chairperson, Spanish National Delegation,
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of
Europe
Jonas Gunnarsson, Chairperson, Swedish
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Filippo Lombardi, Chairperson, Swiss
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Betian Kitev, Chairperson, FYR Macedonia
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
Akif Cagatay Kilic, Chairperson, Turkish
National Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe

14 September 2018

**Appeal by Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum to the
Delegations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on
Discussions on the Removal of Sanctions Affecting the Russian Delegation**

The Steering Committee of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership (EaP CSF) would like to draw your attention to a possible threat to the fundamental values of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), posed by ongoing work on a report on “proposals relating to the challenge or reconsideration of credentials and representation and participation rights of national delegations, as well as regaining the voting rights of members

and the voting procedures of the Assembly”, announced by PACE Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs on 3 September 2018 in Paris.

The Committee report derives from the case of the Russian delegation to PACE, which refuses to present its credentials to the Assembly, as long as the threat of sanctions for the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the military aggression in Eastern Ukraine impedes the representatives of Russia in the Assembly.

If the guarantees demanded by the Russian delegation were to be satisfied – providing their return to PACE, then this would create a precedent depriving PACE of the means to effectively impose sanctions against delegations in the future.

The Committee is due to discuss this issue on 20 September 2018, and a possible vote by PACE on its conclusions is scheduled for 9 October 2018.

We are deeply concerned that a compromise on this issue could threaten basic values espoused by the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly, especially as the original cause for imposing sanctions remains in place.

Crimea remains under Russian control and the war in Eastern Ukraine continues – only an end to this situation could give a cause for the threat of these sanctions, which were originally imposed by PACE to be removed.

Thus, we strongly appeal to all members of the PACE Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs Committee not to support any formula, which would guarantee the Russian delegation avoiding sanctions on their return to PACE.

We also call on the members of national delegations to guard against possible moves, which would threaten Council of Europe principles and to reject any resolution by PACE, limiting the role of sanctions against delegations to the Assembly – considering member states’ commitments at the time of joining the Council of Europe.

Members of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum