



*Council of Europe*  
*Parliamentary Assembly*

*The Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 28 August 2012

Dear Secretary General, Dear Colleague,

I shall have great pleasure in meeting you at the forthcoming meeting of Secretaries General, to be held in Strasbourg on 21 September 2012, on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament. During this meeting, we shall examine *inter alia* the Activity Report of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), together with the Centre's programme and priorities for the years 2012 – 2013. I very much count on your presence and active participation in the meeting.

In this context, I should like to inform you about my intention of submitting to the meeting proposals for two amendments to the current Statute of the ECPRD. I would recall in this connection that, in line with Article 11 of the ECPRD's Statute, "the revision of the(...) Statutes is the responsibility of the Secretaries General of the member chambers gathered at their meeting on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments".

My first proposal concerns Article 2 of the Statute, which still mentions the Assembly of Western European Union. As you are aware, this Assembly ceased to exist in 2010. It is therefore necessary to amend the Statute accordingly.

My second proposal concerns Article 3 of the Statute, which offers specific rights within the ECPRD to parliaments possessing special guest or observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. My intention is to enlarge this group by including also parliaments possessing "partner for democracy" status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The "partner for democracy" status was created by the Assembly in 2009 and may be granted to national parliaments of non-member states of the Council of Europe in neighbouring regions, which meet specific conditions set out in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure (among other: an aspiration of the said parliament to embrace the values of the Council of Europe, which are pluralist and gender parity-based democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms). In principle, the national parliaments of all southern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries participating in the Union for the Mediterranean-Barcelona Process (including the Palestinian Legislative Council), and of central Asian countries participating in the OSCE (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), are eligible to request "partner for democracy" status with the Assembly. So far, the Assembly has granted the status to the Parliament of Morocco and to the Palestinian National Council. The Secretaries General of both parliaments have expressed a keen interest in establishing links with the ECPRD. Personally, I am convinced that their participation in the ECPRD work would be beneficial to all concerned.

**Letter addressed to Secretaries General invited to the meeting on 21 September 2012**

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Therefore, I would like to add an additional item to the Agenda of our meeting, namely – Revision of the ECPRD's Statute – and to submit for your attention and possible approval the following amendments to the ECPRD's Statute:

**Amendment no 1:**

In Article 2, delete the words: “; the Assembly of Western European Union\*”.

**Amendment no 2:**

In Article 3, paragraph 1, after the words: “special guest”, to add the words: “, partner for democracy”.

It is also my intention to consult the Executive Committee of the ECPRD on the above matter, in particular on the substance of the second amendment. The Executive Committee meets on 17 September 2012 just in time to provide us with its opinion on the proposed amendment.

I very much count on your understanding and support and look forward to seeing you in Strasbourg in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wojciech Sawicki'. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'W' and 'S'.

Wojciech Sawicki