

PRESS RELEASE

**Council of Europe
Parliamentary Assembly**



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PACE calls on states to consider lowering voting age to 16

Strasbourg, 24.06.2011 – The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has called on member states to investigate the possibility of lowering the voting age to 16 for all kinds of elections.

The great majority of the Council of Europe's 47 member states currently have 18 as the minimum voting age – though in 2007 Austria became the first to lower the age to 16 for all municipal, state and national elections, the Assembly pointed out. Some German *länder*, one Swiss canton and three British Crown Dependencies also permit voting at 16.

"By taking this step, young people would feel more included, and are more likely to be engaged in the political process as they grow older," said the author of the report Miloš Aligrudić (Serbia, EPP/CD). "This expands democracy, and makes politics in general more representative."

[Adopted resolution](#)

[Full report](#)

[Verbatim of the debate](#)



The Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.
President: Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, EDG) - Secretary General of the Assembly: Wojciech Sawicki.
Political groups: EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); SOC (Socialist Group);
EDG (European Democrat Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe);
UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).