

# Press Release

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46 members

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Poland  
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Switzerland  
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"  
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### **“The creation of an Asian Parliamentary Assembly will be a catalyst for political integration in Asia”, says PACE President**

Strasbourg, 05.04.2005 – “Asia made history today”, announced Philippine Congress Speaker Jose de Venecia following the proposal made by the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) Senior Advisory Council in Manila, to create, within the next five years, an Asian Parliamentary Assembly on the model of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE).

Addressing the AAPP Senior Advisory Council, PACE President René van der Linden stressed that an Asian Parliamentary Assembly would serve at least two important purposes.

“If Asia decides to strengthen its co-operation in the fields of democracy, human rights and rule of law, as essential building blocks for political integration, an Asian Parliamentary Assembly could indeed be an important catalyst. It would provide an additional guarantee that future mechanisms will be open, transparent and close to their citizens.

It would also give the people of Asia a voice in the world. A clear, strong and legitimate voice to speak on matters which concern us all – global peace and stability, the fight against terrorism, social cohesion, and economic development”, he said.

When being awarded the Congressional Medal of Achievement by Speaker Jose de Venecia for his important contribution to the creation of an Asian Parliamentary Assembly, René van der Linden expressed the hope that PACE could conclude a formal cooperation agreement with the future Asian Parliamentary Assembly, as it did recently with the newly created Pan-African Parliament. He formally invited the AAPP Senior Advisory Council to attend the PACE June session (Strasbourg, 20-24 June).

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 630 members from the national parliaments of the 46 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Bruno Haller.

Political Groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); LDR (Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' Group); EDG (European Democratic Group); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).