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26 January 2026

Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities

Challenge on procedural grounds of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Poland

Report¹

prepared by the Chairperson of the Committee

A. Opinion²

1. On 26 January 2026, at the opening of the Parliamentary Assembly session, the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Poland were challenged on procedural grounds, in accordance with Rule 7.1 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, namely on the grounds that the name of one member of the Sejm put forward by one of the political groups within the Sejm, Law and Order (PiS), to be part of the national delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, had been omitted from the list submitted by the Speaker of the Sejm, allegedly contrary to the internal procedure of the Sejm.

2. At its meeting on 27 January 2026, the Committee on Rule, Ethics and Immunities examined the objections raised. It also noted the explanations provided to the Committee by the chairperson of the Polish delegation, Ms Agnieszka Pomaska. It noted that, in terms of fair representation, the composition of the Polish national delegation reflects the various political currents present in the Polish parliament. The matter for examination is a procedural one; namely whether the Speaker of a Parliament can refuse to submit the name of a member of parliament proposed by a political group.

3. In line with Rule 6.2.a of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, parliaments have a right to develop their own specific arrangements provided that their procedures are transparent and comply with democratic principles. In the case of the Sejm, it has well established procedures and reasons were provided to the chairperson of the PiS political group for the refusal to include the name of Mr Wos in 2026, together with an invitation to select another member for that space. Thus, the refusal was "duly reasoned, transparent and communicated" to the political group concerned. Upon request the reasons were also communicated to the Assembly.

4. Nonetheless, the committee recalls that national delegations are obliged to provide reasons for any vacant seats when submitting credentials, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the principle of fair representation. It further stresses that any decision not to include a member proposed by a political group must be based on transparent institutional procedures, so as to avoid perceptions of undue discretion or arbitrariness and to uphold the Council of Europe's core values of the rule of law, human rights, and pluralistic democracy.

5. There is nothing to indicate that the principles guaranteed by Rule 6.2 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure have not been respected by the Polish Parliament. The delegation reflects a fair representation of the main political currents in the Polish parliament.

¹ Reference to committee: Assembly decision of 26 January 2025

² Adopted by the committee on 27 January 2025

6. Accordingly, having considered the objections raised, and in accordance with Rule 10.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities concludes that the credentials of the Polish parliamentary delegation are in compliance with Rule 7.1 and 6.2.a of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure. The Committee therefore concludes that the credentials of the Polish delegation should be ratified by the Assembly.

B. Explanatory memorandum

1. Introduction

1. On 26 January 2025, at the opening of the Parliamentary Assembly session, Mr Martin Graff (Austria, ECPA), backed by at least ten other members belonging to five national delegations, challenged the still unratified credentials of the Polish parliamentary delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly on procedural grounds, in accordance with Rule 7.1. of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, on the ground that the correct procedure in appointing the Polish delegation was not followed, because the name of the candidate of one political party was removed from the final list transmitted to the President of the Assembly. In accordance with Rule 7.2, the Assembly referred the credentials to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities for report. In his challenge Mr Graf stated that:

"The President of the Polish Parliament has, without good reason, rejected the appointment of one of the candidates proposed by the Law and Justice party, Mr Michał Wos, and left the seat vacant. Presidents of parliaments are not authorised to decide on the election of Members or their deputies. This is the responsibility of the respective political groups. Therefore, the composition of the entire delegation violates the principle of fair representation under Rule 6.2.a., and I request that the Committee on Rules of Procedure address this issue."

2. Rule 6.2.a provides: *"Insofar as the number of their members allows, national delegations should be composed so as to ensure a fair representation of the political parties or groups in their parliaments (...)".* The composition of the Polish delegation reflects the main political currents in the composition of the Polish Sejm and Senate and, to that extent fair representation is respected, including through the vacant seat continuing to be allocated to the PiS party. Instead, the issue before the Committee is whether the decision by the Marshall of the Sejm to exclude one name from the list submitted by an opposition party was fair, as required under the principles on fair representation.

3. The Committee must therefore consider whether the procedure for appointing the Polish delegation:

- was consistent with the principles set out in Article 25 of the Statute of the Council of Europe taken together with Rule 6 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, and
- was consistent with the principles contained in Rule 7.1 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.³

4. According to Rule 7.2, *"[i]f the Committee concludes that the credentials should be ratified, it may submit an opinion to the President of the Assembly, who shall read it out in the plenary sitting of the Assembly... without debate. If the Committee concludes that the credentials should not be ratified or that they should be ratified but that some rights of participation or representation should be denied or suspended, the Committee's report shall be placed on the agenda for debate within the prescribed deadlines"*.

2. The credentials of the Polish parliamentary delegation submitted for ratification at the opening of the January session

5. Pursuant to Article 26 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, the Polish parliamentary delegation is composed of 12 representatives and 12 substitutes. The composition of the Polish delegation is split between the Sejm, which has 9 representatives and 9 substitutes on the delegation and the Senate, which has 3 representatives and 3 substitutes on the delegation. The Polish national delegation is composed as follows:

Poland

Representatives

Ms Iwona ARENT (Law and Justice (PiS))
 Mr Włodzimierz BERNACKI (Law and Justice (PiS))
 Ms Magdalena BIEJAT (The Left)
 Mr Marek BOROWSKI (Civic Coalition (KO))
 Mr Szymon HOŁOWNIA (Poland 2050)
 Mr Paweł JABŁOŃSKI (Law and Justice (PiS))

³ Rule 7.1.:

"Credentials may be challenged by at least ten members of the Assembly present in the Chamber, belonging to at least five national delegations, on stated procedural grounds based upon:

- a. one or more of the relevant provisions of the Statute (in particular Articles 25 and 26);
- b. the conditions set out in Rules 6.2.a and Rules 6.2.b [fair representation and gender, respectively]
- c. the absence of a solemn statement as mentioned in Rule 6.2.c.

The authors shall state the reasons for the challenge."

Ms Danuta JAZŁOWIECKA (Civic Coalition (KO))
Mr Daniel MILEWSKI (Law and Justice (PiS))
Ms Wanda NOWICKA (The Left)
Mr Mirosław Adam ORLIŃSKI (Polish People's Party)
Ms Agnieszka POMASKA (Civic Coalition (KO))
Mr Krzysztof TRUSKOLASKI (Civic Coalition (KO))

Substitutes

Mr Adam BODNAR (Civic Coalition (KO))
Ms Anna BOGUĆKA (Law and Justice (PiS))
Mr Krzysztof BOSAK (Confederation)
Mr Konrad FRYSZTAK (Civic Coalition (KO))
Mr Patryk JASKULSKI (Civic Coalition (KO))
Mr Jan KANTHAK (Law and Justice (PiS))
Mr Michał KRAWCZYK (Civic Coalition (KO))
Mr Jan Filip LIBICKI (Third Way)
Mr Kacper Maciej PŁAŻYŃSKI (Law and Justice (PiS))
Ms Ewa SCHÄDLER (Poland 2050)
Ms Katarzyna SÓJKA (Law and Justice (PiS))
ZZ...

6. As concerns the Sejm, of the majority parties, the Civic Coalition (KO) has 34.13% of seats in the Sejm and 6 seats (33.33%) within the delegation; Poland 2050 has 6.96% seats in the Sejm and 2 seats (11.11%) within the delegation; the Polish People's Party (PSL) has 6.96% seats in the Sejm and 1 (5.56%) seat within the delegation; the Left Party (Lewica) has 4.57% of seats in the Sejm and 1 seat (5.56%) within the delegation. As concerns opposition parties, the Confederation has 3.91% of the seats within the Sejm and 1 seat (5.56%) within the delegation, whereas Law and Justice (PiS) has 41.3% seats within the Sejm and 6 (35.29%) seats within the delegation. However, we have been informed that the vacant seat (ZZ) is notionally assigned to PiS but has been proposed without a name (ZZ), - if that seat were filled it would bring the percentage of seats attributed to PiS up to 7 (38.89%) seats. A further three political parties who each have less than 1.1% of seats within the Sejm are not represented in the delegation.

7. As concerns the Senate, of the majority parties, the Civic Coalition (KO) has 43% of seats in the Senate and 2 seats (33.33%) within the delegation; the Left Party has 8% of seats in the Senate and 1 seat (16.67%) within the delegation and the Third Way has 12% of seats within the Senate and 1 seat (16.67%) within the delegation. As concerns opposition parties, Law and Justice (PiS) has 34% seats within the Senate and 2 (33.33%) seats within the delegation. One further majority political party who has 3% of seats within the Senate is not represented in the delegation.

8. The composition of on the Polish delegation thus reflects the main political currents in the composition of the Polish Sejm and Senate and, to that extent fair representation is respected, including through the vacant seat continuing to be allocated to the PiS party.

3. The procedure in the Sejm for appointing the Polish national delegation

3.1. The national procedure in the Sejm

9. The credentials of the Polish delegation were sent to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly on 18 January 2026 having been duly signed by the Marshall of the Sejm, Włodzimierz Czarzasty. Whilst the Polish national delegation comprises members of the Sejm and the Senate, it is the procedure of the Sejm that is relevant to the challenge to the credentials of the Polish delegation.

10. Based on the information available to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities, the procedure for appointing the Polish delegation to the Assembly is governed by the following arrangements:

- the procedure adopted is based on parliamentary custom and practice;
- at the beginning of each term of office of the Sejm, the number of seats to which each party is entitled as well as the distribution of seats between parties in the delegation are approved by the Presidium of the Sejm, on the basis of proposals from the Office of International Affairs, taking into account the proportional distribution of seats among the political parties in the Sejm (and as part of arrangements for the division of seats in all permanent delegations);

- the Director of the Bureau asks the chairpersons of parliamentary groups to nominate parliamentarians to be members of the national delegation to PACE;
- after collecting the names the Director informs the Speaker of the Sejm on the composition of the delegation to PACE and asks the Speaker to sign the credentials;
- the Speaker of the Sejm, who is the competent authority within the meaning of Rule 6.1 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, submits the delegation credentials to the President of the Assembly.

3.3. *The 2026 credentials and the removal of the name of Mr Woś from the list*

11. The 2026 credentials were signed by Speaker of the Sejm on 14 January, 2026 and sent to the President of the Assembly. The Committee Secretariat has been informed by the Secretary to the Polish national delegation that:

“Taking into account the legal situation of MP Michał Woś, as well as in light of the Resolution of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland of 28 June 2024 on granting consent by the Sejm to hold MP Michał Woś criminally liable, and further considering the decision of 21 October 2025 issued by a prosecutor of Investigative Team No. 2 of the National Public Prosecutor's Office (case file reference No. 1001-22.Ds.8.2025) to submit an indictment against Michał Woś to the Regional Court in Warsaw, the Speaker of the Sejm did not sign the credentials for MP Michał Woś.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the PACE, the speakers of parliaments appoint the members of national delegations. The Speaker of the Sejm informed the Chairman of the Parliamentary Caucus - Law and Justice, Mr Mariusz Błaszczak, of his decision not to sign the credentials, explained the reasons for the decision - waiving immunity and prosecutorial charges- and asked Chairman of the Parliamentary Caucus - Law and Justice to nominate another MP from the Law and Justice. As of today, no response has been received.”

12. The Committee heard from the chairperson of the Polish delegation, Ms Agnieszka Pomaska, and noted her explanation relating to the method of appointing the delegation; the reasons why the preferred candidate of PiS for a substitute seat had been omitted from the list transmitted to the Assembly; the importance that the Polish national delegation attached to ensuring an appropriate representation of Poland in the Council of Europe; and that that seats would be reserved for a member of that political party (in opposition).

4. **Positions of the Assembly to promote respect for pluralist democracy in the representation of parliaments in national delegations**

13. The present challenge to the credentials of the Polish parliament is not based on a claim that its composition fails to comply with the criterion of fair representation of political parties or groups laid down in the Rules of Procedure, but, on the procedure for appointing the delegation and whether the Speaker of the Parliament had discretion to refuse to include the name of a member of Parliament proposed by his political group in accordance with the fair representation split of the delegation.

14. The Assembly has, for many years, demonstrated its commitment to strengthen its democratic nature, in terms of both its functioning and its composition. In Recommendation 1027 (1986) on amending Article 25 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, the Assembly reiterated “the paramount importance assigned by the Statute of the Council of Europe to the principles of pluralist parliamentary democracy” and the need to “transform this moral obligation [placed on states to ensure compliance with the democratic principles set forth in the preamble to the Statute] into a formal requirement.”

15. In [Resolution 1798 \(2011\)](#) “Fair representation of the political parties or groups of national parliaments in their delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly”, the Assembly set out the principles to be used to assess whether political parties or groups are fairly represented in national delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly (set out in the Annex to this document). In particular the following principles are relevant here:

- It is the national **parliaments that decide upon the composition of their delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly**. As there are no standardised procedures for national parliaments to appoint delegations to the Assembly, the parliaments' political discretion must, in general, be respected. The **Assembly should avoid becoming involved in a detailed analysis of the political composition of a delegation**.

- Parliaments' decisions on appointments must respect national procedural rules and be, on the whole, **fair, that is, honest, impartial, just, equitable, non-discriminatory**. The national procedural rules should also be in accordance with the **Council of Europe's fundamental values** (rule of law, respect for human rights and pluralistic democracy).
- On the basis of information received from parliaments on the methods used to allocate seats on their delegation, the Assembly assesses merely whether the representation of the political groups of the parliament is **fair, not whether it is proportionate**.
- **Candidates proposed by a political group should in general be accepted as members – representatives or substitutes – if they meet the criteria of the national procedural rules.**

16. [Resolution 2630 \(2025\)](#), "Ensuring Parliamentary Assembly members can travel freely to carry out their work", adopted by the Assembly just last year, is particularly relevant to this issue. Paragraph 6 of that Resolution provides:

*"With respect to the composition of national delegations, the decision to remove a member's name from the national delegation, despite that member being proposed by their national political party or group in accordance with the principle of fair representation of political parties or groups, is significant; it prevents that member from participating in the work of the Assembly and undermines the spirit of fair representation. **In principle, it should be for political groups within national parliaments to assign the seats allocated to them in the delegation, without interference. Any changes to the delegation must be duly reasoned, transparent and communicated to both the Assembly and to the political group concerned.**"*

5. Precedents in the Parliamentary Assembly concerning challenges to credentials based on Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure and the rulings of the Committee

17. There are a few precedents where the Assembly has been asked to rule on a challenge to credentials on the ground of a lack of fair political representation of political parties or groups, and specifically where individuals from opposition political factions have been excluded from the list submitted for ratification:

– In January 2020, the still unratified credentials of the Moldovan parliamentary delegation were challenged on the ground that the composition of the delegation did not allow fair representation of the political parties or groups represented in the Moldovan Parliament due to the lack of a Sor candidate as that party had not nominated a candidate for its seat. The Committee concluded that the credentials of the Moldovan delegation should be ratified, given that the fact that a political party in opposition has not submitted a candidature to the seat it is supposed to fill on the Moldovan delegation should not be taken as a violation of the principle of fair representation of political groups within the Moldovan delegation.⁴

– In January 2020, the still unratified credentials of the Spanish parliamentary delegation were challenged on the ground that the composition of the delegation did not allow fair representation of the political parties or groups represented in the Spanish Parliament due to the absence of the Vox party, the third largest political force in the Spanish Parliament. The Committee concluded that the credentials of the Spanish delegation should be ratified, given the explanations provided by the Spanish delegation that this was a provisional delegation, and noting the fact that the three vacant seats in the Spanish delegation implied that members of the Vox group currently not represented in the delegation would be able to join it.⁵

– In January 2019, the still unratified credentials of the Spanish parliamentary delegation were challenged on the ground that the composition of the delegation did not allow fair representation of the political parties or groups represented in the Spanish Parliament. The challenge was on the basis that only the main four political parties (and the Basque party) were represented and not the smaller parties – notably it was argued that Vox was under-represented given its numbers. The Committee concluded that the credentials of the Spanish delegation should be ratified, given the explanations provided by the Spanish delegation that this was a provisional delegation following elections, noting that the main political tendencies were represented, noting the fact that the seven vacant seats in the Spanish delegation implied that they could be filled by members of minority groups not currently represented in the delegation, and noting the assurances given by the Spanish delegation that it would take steps to rectify the situation.⁶

⁴ Opinion to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, document AS/Pro (2020) 05 def

⁵ Opinion to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, document AS/Pro (2020) 06 def

⁶ Opinion to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, document AS/Pro (2019) 12 def

– In January 2016, the still unratified credentials of the Moldovan parliamentary delegation were challenged on the ground that the incomplete composition of the delegation, as well as the absence of one of the main political parties from the delegation, did not allow fair representation of the political parties or groups represented in the Moldovan Parliament. The Committee proposed that the Assembly ratify the credentials of the Moldovan parliamentary delegation but provide for the automatic suspension of the voting rights of its members in the Assembly and its bodies if the composition of the delegation were not brought into conformity with Rule 6.2.a of the Rules of Procedure by the April 2016 part-session. It invited the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) to ensure, that the Moldovan Parliament is properly informed of the requirements laid down in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure and that it will take due account of them in subsequent changes to the composition of its parliamentary delegation, particularly when filling the three remaining vacant seats on the delegation.⁷

– In April 2013, the still unratified credentials of a member of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation, Mr Andriy Shevchenko, had been challenged on procedural grounds, based on the fact that he was replacing, in the Ukrainian delegation, Mr Sergiy Vlasenko, who had been deprived of his national parliamentary mandate under a judicial decision which may have been politically motivated. Taking the view that the appointment of Mr Shevchenko did not violate the principle of the fair representation of political parties or groups, as both members of parliament belonged to the same group in the Verkhovna Rada, the Assembly ratified the credentials.⁸

– In January 2010, the Committee was asked to take a position on the challenge to the still unratified credentials of the Armenian parliamentary delegation, relating to the alleged under-representation of opposition parties or groups. The challenge claimed that the Armenian parliament had "manipulated its internal rules in order to exclude a member of the EPP group". The Committee concluded that the credentials should be ratified, insofar as the list of delegation members ensured a fair representation of the political groups in the Armenian National Assembly and included a representative and substitute belonging to the opposition.⁹

6. Conclusions

18. In the examination of challenges to credentials, the Assembly must avoid any interference in the internal political affairs of a member State. It must, in principle, simply ensure that the main political currents present in a parliament are represented and, in particular, that the delegation includes representation of opposition parties.

19. In terms of fair representation, the main political currents are represented in the Polish national delegation list. The matter for examination is a procedural one; namely whether the President of a Parliament can refuse to submit the name of a member of parliament proposed by his political group.

20. As the Assembly Resolution 2630 (2025) made clear "In principle, it should be for political groups within national parliaments to assign the seats allocated to them in the delegation without interference. Any changes to the delegation must be duly reasoned, transparent and communicated to both the Assembly and to the political group concerned".

21. It is clear that Parliaments have a right to develop their own specific arrangements provided that their procedures are transparent and comply with democratic principles. In the case of the Sejm, it has well established procedures and there were reasons provided to the chairperson of the PiS political group for the refusal to include the name of Mr Wos in 2026, together with an invitation to select another member for that space. Thus the refusal was "duly reasoned, transparency and communicated" to the political group concerned. Upon request the reasons were also communicated to the Assembly.

22. On this basis, the Committee on Rules of Procedure concludes that the principles enshrined in Rule 7.1 and 6.2.a of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure have been complied with. Nonetheless, the committee notes that:

– there is an obligation on national delegations to provide the reasons for any vacant seat and to communicate them to the Assembly when submitting credentials. The Assembly therefore expects any

⁷ See Resolution 2092 (2016) and the report by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs (Doc. 13962).

⁸ Doc. 13193 and Resolution 1931 (2013).

⁹ Opinion to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, document AS/Pro (2010) 06 def.

delegation with vacant seats to submit, alongside the credentials, a letter explaining those vacancies in conformity with the Assembly's rules of procedure and the principles of fair representation;

– “candidates proposed by a political group should in general be accepted as members – representatives or substitutes – if they meet the criteria of the national procedural rules”. In particular, it is to be preferred that a more consensual decision be made if a parliament decides not to submit the name of a particular member.

– thus a decision by the Praesidium of the Sejm (or the Bureau of an Assembly) could be a sufficient institutional position of the Sejm not to include a member on the list, whereas a decision of the Speaker alone has greater risks of arbitrariness and therefore risks contravening the Council of Europe's fundamental values (rule of law, respect for human rights and pluralistic democracy).

23. There is nothing to indicate that the principles guaranteed by Rule 6.2 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure have not been respected by the Polish Parliament. The delegation reflects a fair representation of the main political currents in the Polish parliament.

24. Accordingly, having considered the objections raised, and in accordance with Rule 10.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities concludes that the credentials of the Polish parliamentary delegation are in compliance with Rule 6 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure. The Committee therefore concludes that the credentials of the Polish delegation should be ratified by the Assembly

ANNEX: Principles to be used to assess whether political parties or groups are fairly represented in national delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly

“The following principles, which are derived from the reports and the practice of the Assembly in connection with the verification of national delegations’ credentials, apply when an assessment is being made as to whether political parties or groups are “fairly represented” in national delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly:

As “fair” is not specifically as such defined in the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure, it is reasonable to use the usual meaning: honest, impartial, just, equitable, non-discriminatory, when examining the question of a “fair representation”.

It is the national parliaments that decide upon the composition of their delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly. As there are no standardised procedures for national parliaments to appoint delegations to the Assembly, the parliaments’ political discretion must, in general, be respected. The Assembly should avoid becoming involved in a detailed analysis of the political composition of a delegation.

Parliaments’ decisions on appointments must respect national procedural rules and be, on the whole, fair, that is, honest, impartial, just, equitable, non-discriminatory. The national procedural rules should also be in accordance with the Council of Europe’s fundamental values (rule of law, respect for human rights and pluralistic democracy).

On the basis of information received from parliaments on the methods used to allocate seats on their delegation, the Assembly assesses merely whether the representation of the political groups of the parliament is fair, not whether it is proportionate.

According to Rule 6.2.a of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure, each national parliament informs the Assembly of the methods used to appoint seats on the delegation. The Assembly’s Table Office examines the credentials of the delegation from a procedural point of view before forwarding them to the Assembly (or the Standing Committee) for ratification.

In case of difficulties, the Table Office may seek clarification from the secretariat of the national delegation concerned. The Table Office informs the President of the Assembly if there is a potential problem which needs to be addressed.

Both representatives and substitutes are taken into account when determining the political balance of a national delegation in order to assess “fair representation”.

In the case of bicameral parliaments, fair representation is assessed at the level of the delegation as a whole (not the members of each chamber).

Parliaments with many political groups but with a limited number of seats in the Assembly may justifiably invoke difficulties in fulfilling the condition of “fair representation” (Rule 6.2.a: “Insofar as the number of their members allows ...”).

Where a parliament is made up mostly of two major political groups, representing the majority and the opposition, and several very small opposition parties, it is preferable not to distribute the seats equally among the two “bigger” groups but to include other groups in the delegation to make it more pluralistic. For the duration of the legislature, the possibility of annually rotating membership of the delegation may be considered for small political groups.

Where there are problems appointing the members of a delegation, the political group(s) supporting the government might be asked to make “compromise efforts”, in particular to promote a better representation of the opposition. Candidates proposed by a political group should in general be accepted as members – representatives or substitutes – if they meet the criteria of the national procedural rules.

If, because of the limited number of seats of a delegation and the small size of the opposition parties, it is not possible to appoint at least one member of the opposition as a representative on the delegation, it should be ensured that opposition members who are substitutes can travel to Strasbourg and that they are given the opportunity to replace representatives on their delegation for Parliamentary Assembly sessions.