

SPEAKING AND SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

The Conference is composed of the Speakers and Presidents of the Parliaments of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and other Inter-Parliamentary Assemblies.

Only Speakers and Presidents will have the right to speak, including Observers. In accordance with past practice, oral statements at the Conference will be limited to five minutes in order to give an opportunity to all those who so wish to take the floor.

The Speakers and Presidents of Parliaments enjoying Observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Canada, Israel and Mexico) or Partner for democracy status (Morocco and Palestinian National Authority), as well as the Presidents of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE/PA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO/PA), the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Nordic Council, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (PABSEC), the Benelux Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) , the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM), the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) and the Pan-African Parliament are invited to the Conference as observers. The Presidents of the Parliaments of Algeria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are also associated with the Conference.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the five working languages of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: English, French, German, Italian and Russian.

Delegations wishing to provide a written statement addressing one or all of the topics for discussion may send their text of 3-5 pages (in English or French) by **9 September 2012** to the Secretariat of the Conference (sap.paceconference2012@coe.int), preferably in electronic form (Word).

Reserved seating will be allocated in the Assembly Chamber for National Delegations as follows: three seats for unicameral Parliaments and six for bicameral Parliaments. If Delegations include – as would be desirable - the Chairpersons of the National Delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, then one more seat can be reserved for them with advance notice to the Secretariat. All other delegations will be allotted three seats.