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Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities

The 2026 declaration of interest process: overview¹

Information memorandum

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1. Introduction

1. As part of the ethics and integrity system of the Parliamentary Assembly, members are required to complete and submit a written declaration of interests at the opening of each annual session.² The declaration is made in good faith, under the sole responsibility of the member concerned and in full knowledge of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly. It is certified true and correct.

2. In keeping with the aim of strengthening the integrity, accountability and transparency of Assembly members, the declaration of interest system is designed to provide relevant information on any interest which, on account of its nature, scope or intensity, could reasonably be regarded as liable to influence or be seen as influencing members' actions, words or voting decisions, and which could help to identify any actual or potential conflicts of interest in connection with the exercise of the parliamentary mandate in the Assembly.

3. Under paragraphs 5.6, 17 and 18 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly, members are required to keep their declarations of interest updated and in particular to update them to add any specific roles that they may have within the Assembly. In relation to such roles, members are required to identify any interests relevant to those roles and to record how they would manage any perceived, potential or actual conflicts of interests with those roles in Section K of the declaration form.³

4. Declarations are made online (with the information being entered in an electronic form). Access to the application is personalised and protected. Each member has an individual account, the username for which is their private email address. Members' email addresses must remain valid and be retained for the duration of their term in the Assembly.

2. Verification and consequences of a failure to complete a declaration of interests

5. Once the deadline for submission has passed, the Secretariat checks whether the declarations of interest have been submitted on time and compiles a list of any members who have not submitted a declaration. This list is made public on the Assembly's website.

¹ Declassified by decision of the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities at its meeting on 22 April 2026

² As required by paragraph 17 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly. The deadline for submitting 2026 declarations of interest was 28 February 2026.

³ Section K is reserved for members with:

- Bureau roles: This includes President or Vice-President of the Assembly; chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee, sub-committee, network, platform or alliance; chairperson of a political group.
- Rapporteur roles: This includes rapporteur, co-rapporteur, general rapporteur or youth rapporteur.
- Representative roles.

6. In accordance with paragraph 19 of the code of conduct, any member who has failed or refused to submit a declaration, knowingly or negligently failed to declare a relevant interest or submitted an untruthful declaration will automatically be deprived of the right to be appointed or to continue to hold any of the specific roles, including:

- Bureau roles (President or Vice-President of the Assembly; chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee, sub-committee, network, platform or alliance; chairperson of a political group);
- Rapporteur roles (rapporteur, co-rapporteur, general rapporteur or youth rapporteur);
- Election observation roles;
- Representative roles.

7. This prohibition ceases two months after the submission of that member's declaration for that year.

8. Any member who has not submitted an annual declaration of interests for the relevant year must, if intervening in a debate, start their intervention with an oral declaration of interests (paragraph 20 of the code of conduct). A failure to submit a declaration of interests or a failure to declare a relevant interest is a breach of the Code of conduct.

9. In accordance with paragraph 10.1 of Resolution 2596 (2025) "Respect for the rule of law and the fight against corruption within the Council of Europe", the Secretariat should "undertake initial checks of declarations of interest to raise any potential obvious omissions or potential conflicts with the member concerned". Paragraph 10 of that Resolution asked the Secretariat to "focus, as a priority, on checks in relation to members with specific offices within the Assembly [...]" and for "additional resources to be placed at the disposal of the Secretariat in order to facilitate this checking mechanism".

10. Paragraph 10.4 of Resolution 2596 (2025) specified that "the Secretariat should produce an annual information note, for the attention of the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities, on its progress in this work checking the declarations of interest of the Assembly members. The President of the Assembly should also receive a copy". This information note is an initial note on the work done to support members in completing their declarations of interest within the deadline – and in particular to support members with specific roles in completing their declarations accurately within the timeframe.

3. Summary of the results of the declaration of interest process in 2026

3.1. Number of declarations completed by the deadline (end February 2026)

11. In 2026, 467 of 585 declarations were submitted and published before the 28 February deadline, representing **80%** compliance. This marks an improvement compared to previous years: 419 of 569 declarations (**74%**) were submitted on time in 2025, and 444 of 582 (**76%**) in 2024.

12. In 2026, all members with special roles (99 members) completed the relevant Section K by the deadline.

3.2. Overview and analysis of declaration of interests compliance in 2026⁴

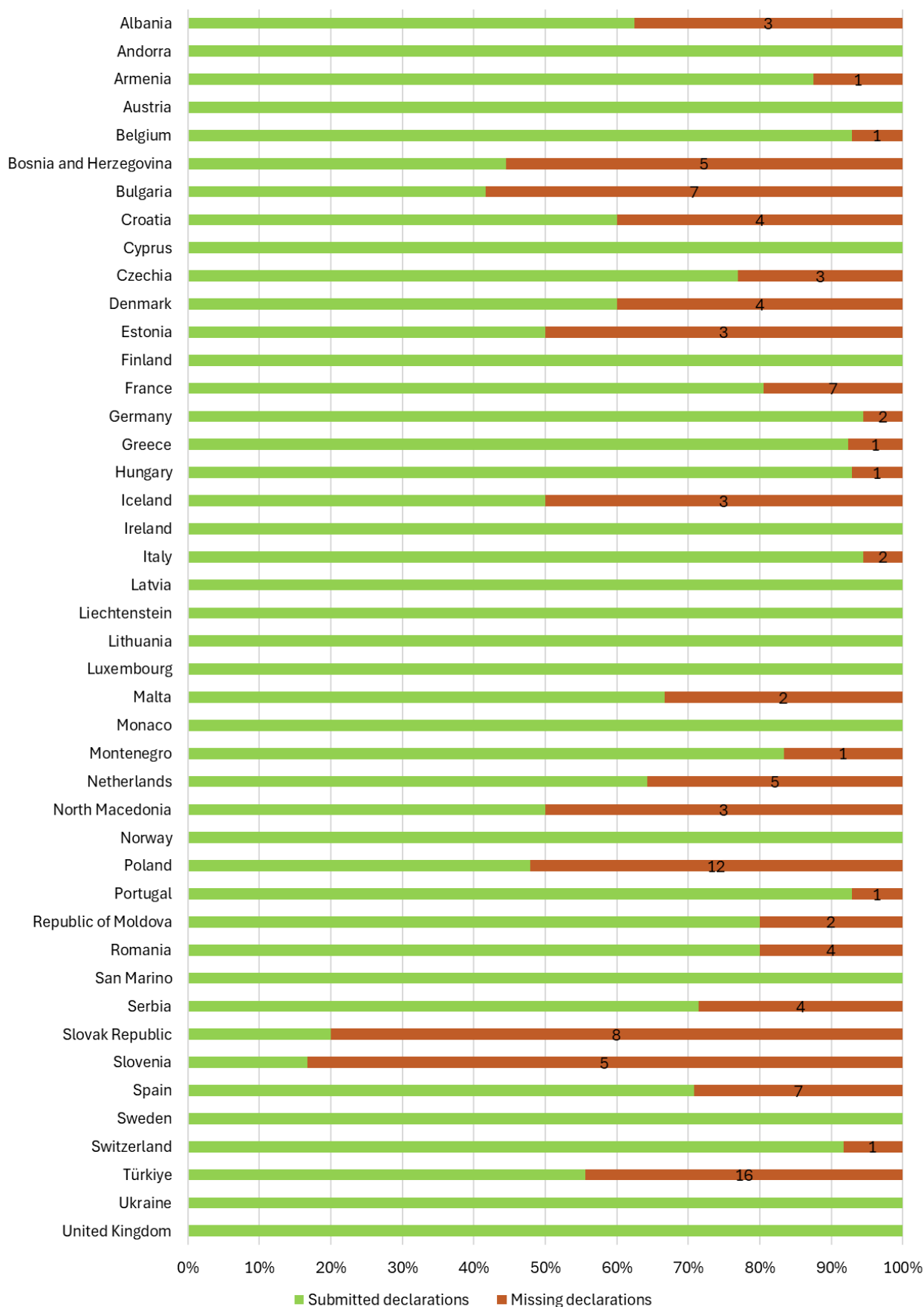
13. In 2026, declaration of interests compliance across national delegations displays marked variation. Several delegations have achieved full compliance, notably Andorra, Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, with 100% of their members submitting declarations on time.

⁴ The compliance rate is calculated as the number of members who submit their declaration by the deadline of 28 February 2026, divided by the total number of members of the delegation at the time of the deadline. Vacant positions are not included in the total number of members.

14. In contrast, eleven national delegations have a poor compliance rate (60% or below compliance rate):

- Slovenia (5 missing, 16.7% compliance);
- Slovak Republic (8 missing, 20% compliance);
- Bulgaria (7 missing, 41.7% compliance);
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 missing, 44.4% compliance);
- Poland (12 missing, 47.8% compliance);
- North Macedonia (3 missing, 50% compliance);
- Iceland (3 missing, 50% compliance);
- Estonia (3 missing, 50% compliance);
- Türkiye (16 missing, 55.6% compliance);
- Denmark (4 missing, 60% compliance);
- Croatia (4 missing, 60% compliance).

15. The members who have not submitted their declarations for 2026 are mostly concentrated within these delegations. Türkiye has the greatest total number of non-compliant individuals, with 16 members yet to submit, followed by Poland, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, France, Spain, Slovenia, and the Netherlands.

No. of completed and missing declarations by national delegation (2026)⁵

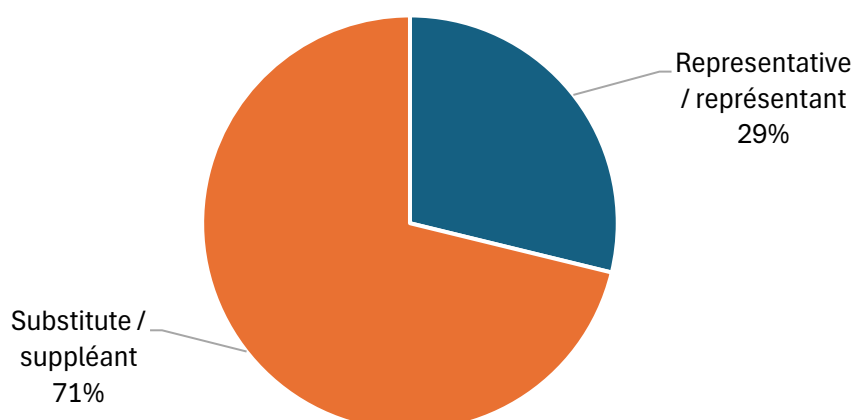
⁵ Azerbaijan and Georgia have not submitted credentials for 2026 and therefore are not included in these statistics.

16. A review of the list of missing declarations shows they are distributed across a range of political groups:

- SOC has 28 cases (17% of SOC members);
- EPP/CD has 21 cases (16% of EPP/CD members);
- ECPA has 24 cases (21% of ECPA members);
- ALDE has 15 cases (17% of ALDE members);
- UEL has 7 cases (19% of UEL members);
- NR members have 23 cases (50% of members not belonging to a political group).

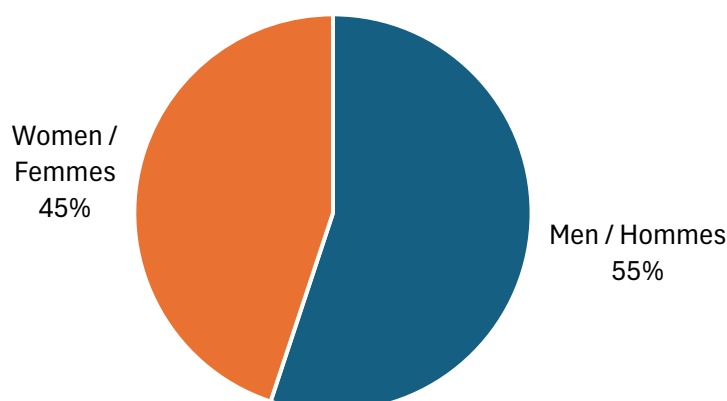
17. Most missing declarations are from **substitutes (84)** rather than representatives (34), reflecting a wide compliance gap among members with different status.

Missing declarations by status /
Déclarations manquantes par rôle (2026)



18. Gender-wise, there is a near balance, though slightly more men (65) than women (53) are non-compliant in 2026.

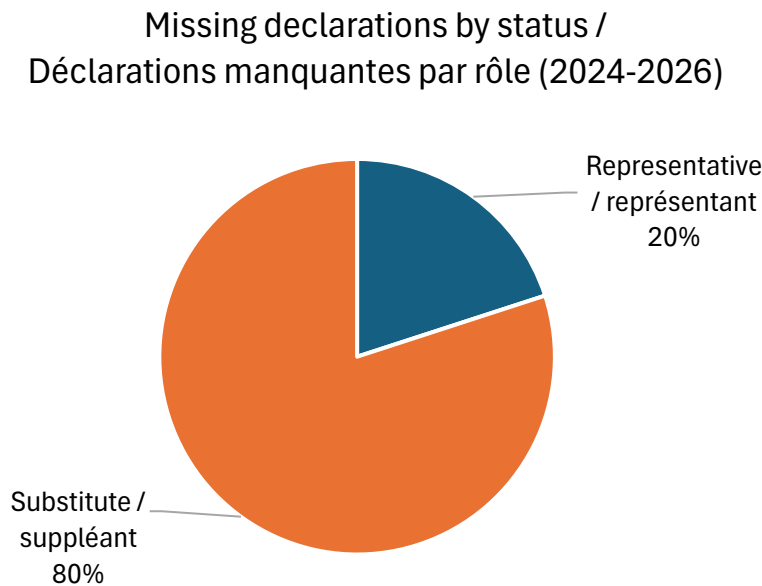
Missing declarations by gender /
Déclarations manquantes par sexe (2026)



19. In summary, 2026 saw high compliance rates across the majority of national delegations, with most representatives meeting the declaration deadline. Opportunities for improvement remain focused in a small number of delegations and specific political groups, allowing targeted efforts to achieve full compliance.

4. Overview of members who have not submit their declaration of interests for the last 3 years (2024, 2025 and 2026)

20. The fact that 45 members have failed to submit a declaration of interests for the past three years shows a strong pattern of non-compliance, predominantly among **substitutes**, who account for 80% of the group.



21. The problem is especially pronounced within certain delegations: Türkiye has the largest cohort with 11 members, representing 30% of its delegation, followed by Poland with 6 (25%), the Slovak Republic with 4 (40%), and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Spain with 3 each. A smaller number of non-compliant members are scattered across Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, France and North Macedonia (2 each), and Greece, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Switzerland (1 each). This raises questions as to whether the pattern simply aligns with broader disengagement from Assembly work or reflects a more casual national attitude towards integrity frameworks, both of which merit further exploration.



22. Regarding demographics, men form a clear majority among these non-compliant members (**64.5%**), despite the Assembly being close to gender parity overall.

23. Another significant factor is **political group affiliation**:

- SOC has 9 cases (5% of SOC members);
- EPP/CD has 9 cases (7% of EPP/CD members);
- ECPA has 8 cases (7% of ECPA members);
- ALDE has 3 cases (3% of ALDE members);
- UEL has 4 cases (11% of UEL members);
- NR members have 12 cases (26% of members not belonging to a political group).

24. There is a notable proportion (26%) of non-compliant members not belonging to any political group that have never submitted a declaration. It is possible that the absence of a definite political group structure, and fewer opportunities to assume Assembly roles typically allocated by group preferences, contribute to the low declaration rates among NR members.

25. Furthermore, non-compliance is disproportionately high among UEL members, with 11% failing to declare over the last three years—about twice the rate seen in other political groups.

5. Requests for assistance

26. The volume of requests for assistance in 2026 reflects the level of engagement and challenges faced by members with respect to compliance and technical requirements.

27. The **PACE Declarations team**, operating within the Secretariat of the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities, received a substantial number of requests for support relating to declarations of interest and compliance matters from Assembly members. Questions from members and Secretaries of Delegation focussed on completing and submitting declarations of interests correctly and in line with the code of conduct. This included requests to complete declarations offline (which is not possible as all declarations must be submitted online only). It also included queries regarding the declaration of parliamentary income; as of this year, members need only declare their mandate, not their salary, and may leave the 'amount of income' field blank. Other common issues concerned whether donations or gifts should be declared and if so, what are the relevant thresholds and timing for declaring them. The team was often asked for guidance regarding declarations following elections or at the start of new mandates, especially the rules on timing and eligibility for roles within the Assembly. Finally, it is worth noting that a significant amount of communication was dedicated to ensuring that all members with specific roles were reminded and assisted in correctly completing their declaration of interests form in accordance with the new requirements for 2026.

28. In parallel, the **IT Unit** managed a total of 66 requests in the last two weeks of February 2026, spanning from straightforward inquiries to more complex cases. The most common IT issues included smartphone replacements, which necessitated resetting two-factor authentication; difficulties arising from password problems or incorrect login credentials entered by members; and two isolated cases in which the confirmation checkbox was not displaying correctly.

6. Conclusions and next steps

29. In conclusion, there are positive results - 2026 has recorded the **highest percentage of complete declarations of interest to date**, at 80%, and notably all those with specific roles within the Assembly have completed a declaration of interests, including with analysis identifying and managing any interests relevant to those roles. However, pockets of poor compliance with the Assembly's integrity process remain, and efforts to improve processes in respect of the delegations of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, North Macedonia, Iceland, Estonia, Türkiye, Denmark and Croatia would greatly improve the overall respect for the Assembly's integrity processes.

30. This information note is an initial note on the work done to support members in completing their declarations of interests within the deadline for the beginning of the 2026 session – and in particular to support members with specific roles in completing their declarations accurately within the timeframe. I propose that this information note be declassified and placed online, as well as shared with the Bureau, the President, and chairpersons and secretaries of political groups and national delegations to ensure adequate awareness of the level of compliance with the declaration of interests process.

31. In line with paragraph 10.4 of Resolution 2596 (2025) a further information memorandum will be produced later in the year, further updating on the functioning of the declaration of interests process and the operation of the checking mechanism, which is in part still being developed.