

Women in Diplomacy Day
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Statement by Theodoros Rousopoulos
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Today we celebrate Women in Diplomacy Day —an occasion to honour the women who shape international relations.

From ancient emissaries to today's peace negotiators, women have long influenced diplomacy, even when history left them unnamed. This day is both a tribute and a call to ensure their voices are fully included at every table.

Yet globally, women remain underrepresented as highlighted in our 2020 Assembly resolution on the Gender Dimension on Foreign policy. Only about 21% of ambassadors worldwide are women, and they hold a small share of senior diplomatic positions.

Progress exists, but parity remains distant.

The Council of Europe tells a different story. With 20 of its 46 ambassadors being women, it reaches nearly 44% female representation—far above the global average. These women are not just statistics—they are exceptional diplomats with whom I've had the honour to work closely since the first days of my presidency. Their professionalism, insight, and friendship have strengthened our cooperation and inspired our shared commitment to democratic values.