

75 years Congress of The Hague ***Multilateralism in Europe at a crossroads***

Thursday 2 March, 15:00 – 16:30 (walk-in 14:00), Peace Palace



The Netherlands delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Clingendael Institute cordially invite you to a special event concerning *Multilateralism in Europe at a crossroads*.

Seventy-five years ago, over 750 delegates from around Europe took part in the historic steps towards European unity at the *Congress of Europe* in The Hague. Against this background, our event at the Peace Palace in The Hague reflects upon the altered geopolitical balance in today's international relations – particularly after the *Zeitenwende* caused by the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Briefly after the full-scale war of aggression began, the principled decision was taken to exclude the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe after 26 years of membership. In other intergovernmental organisations, such as the OSCE and the UN, the discussion whether Russia should be isolated or excluded has risen as well. What are the consequences of this new reality for multilateralism in Europe and beyond?

Programme

14:00 – 15:00 Registration and walk-in. Identification (passport or ID) is required.

15:00 – 15:20 Keynote speeches by

- **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- **Franc Weerwind**, Dutch Minister for Legal Protection

15:20 – 16:20 Panel discussion and Q&A

- Moderator: **Teun Janssen**, Academy Fellow at the Clingendael Institute
- **Tiny Kox**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- **Prof. dr. Barbara Oomen**, Professor in Human Rights at Utrecht University and President of the HZ University of Applied Sciences
- **Bob Deen**, Senior Research Fellow at the Clingendael Institute

16:20 – 16:30 Closing speech: perspective on Iceland's presidency of the Council of Europe

- **Martin Eyjólfsson**, Permanent Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland