



## FACT FILE FOR THE PRESS

Founded in 1955, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) serves as the consultative inter-parliamentary organisation for the North Atlantic Alliance.

### Role

The Assembly provides a forum in which parliamentarians from the 29 members of the North Atlantic Alliance meet together regularly in order to exchange views on key concerns and problems and to provide an indication of parliamentary and public opinion towards Alliance policies. The Assembly also fulfils an educational and informative role for politicians vis-à-vis NATO and its activities.

### Membership

The NATO PA consists of 266 delegates from the 29 NATO member countries. Delegates from 13 associate countries; 4 Mediterranean associate countries; the European Parliament; as well as parliamentary observers from 8 other countries and 2 inter-parliamentary assemblies also take part in its activities.

### Financing

The Assembly is financed by the parliaments or governments of the NATO PA member states. Each country's contribution is based on the NATO Civil Budget formula.

#### Organisation

The Assembly's governing body is the Standing Committee, which is composed of the Head of each member delegation, the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary General. The International Secretariat under its Secretary General, is responsible for all administration and the bulk of research and analysis that supports the Assembly's Committees, Sub-Committees and other groups.

### Sessions

Two sessions are held each year - in the Spring and Autumn ('Annual') - in different countries;

### Rose-Roth Programme

A central part of the Assembly's work is the Rose-Roth Programme of partnership and co-operation - initially with Central and Eastern European countries but subsequently throughout the Euro-Atlantic region. This programme seeks to assist partner countries, mainly in the Balkans and the South Caucasus, through a challenging transition process, which involves the implementation of difficult political and economic reforms.

The Rose-Roth Programme involves a series of seminars focused on regional and topical security issues and training programmes for parliamentary staff and members of Parliament. The aim is to enhance parliamentary awareness, build contacts and provide experience and expertise. Particular attention is paid to promoting the principle of the democratic control of armed forces and to the development of effective parliamentary oversight of defence and the military.

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## Relations with NATO

The Assembly was created independently from NATO and is institutionally separate from the NATO structure. Nevertheless, the Assembly serves as an essential link between NATO and the parliaments of the NATO nations. On this basis, the Assembly has progressively developed an active and wide-ranging cooperation with NATO's political and military authorities.

Thus, its leading decision-making body, the Standing Committee, meets annually with the Secretary General and the Permanent Representatives to the North Atlantic Council (NAC) at NATO headquarters to exchange views on the state of the Alliance and to give legislators an opportunity to share their perspectives directly with members of the NAC.

The NATO Secretary General addresses members of the Assembly at the Spring and Autumn Sessions as well as at other events throughout the year; he also provides a written response to the policy recommendations passed by the Assembly at its Autumn Session.

The Assembly's Presidents in turn address Summit meetings of NATO Heads of State and Government to present the Assembly's view on the key issues on the Alliance's agenda.

Cooperation with partners is the most visible expression of the synergy between NATO and the Assembly's work. The Assembly's partnership activities strengthen and complement at the parliamentary level NATO's own partnerships. In particular, the Assembly has developed dedicated frameworks for relations with Ukraine, Georgia, as well as parliaments in North Africa and the Middle East, which mirror NATO's own partnerships with these countries and regions. Until 2014, the Assembly also had a special body dedicated to relations with Russia.

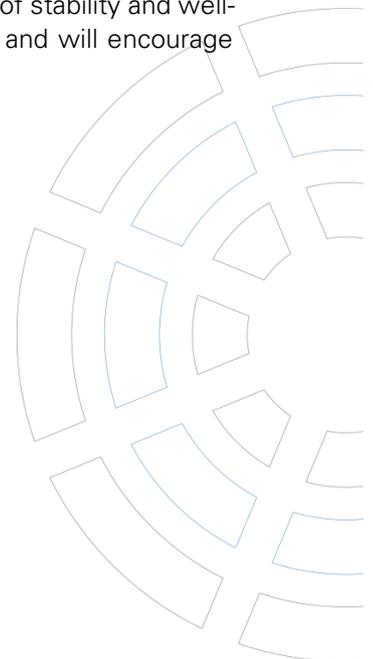
Throughout any given year, the Assembly organises several joint activities with NATO, such as seminars and training programmes for parliamentarians or parliamentary staff. The staff of the NATO PA Secretariat in Brussels enjoys strong and productive relations with their counterparts at NATO.

The Assembly's relations with NATO are based on mutual recognition that Alliance policies need to rely on broad national consensus in member countries, and that parliaments are key players in this regard, and essential channels to citizens. Through this positive partnership, NATO and the Assembly also demonstrate that NATO is an Alliance based on shared values, and which aims to strengthen democratic institutions, as stated in article 2 of the Washington Treaty, according to which

[t]he Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them.

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NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
LE SECRETARIAT INTERNATIONAL

## Committees and Sub-Committees

### **Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security (CDS)**

Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance (CDSDG)

### **Defence and Security Committee (DSC)**

Sub-Committee on Future Security and Defence Capabilities (DSCFC)

Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Cooperation (DSCTC)

### **Economics and Security Committee (ESC)**

Sub-Committee on Transition and Development (ESCTD)

Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations (ESCTER)

### **Political Committee (PC)**

Sub-Committee on NATO Partnerships (PCNP)

Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Relations (PCTR)

### **Science and Technology Committee (STC)**

Sub-Committee on Technology Trends and Security (STCTTS)

## Other Fora

The Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group (GSM)

The Ukraine-NATO Inter-parliamentary Council (UNIC)

The Transatlantic Parliamentary Forum (FOR)

## Officers of the Assembly

### **President**

Rasa JUKNEVICIENE (Lithuania)

### **Vice-Presidents**

Lord CAMPBELL OF PITTENWEEM (United Kingdom)

Vitalino CANAS (Portugal)

Joseph A. DAY (Canada)

### **Treasurer**

Marc ANGEL (Luxembourg)

### **Secretary General**

David HOBBS (United Kingdom)

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