

**AGREEMENT
ON COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES
AND
THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

In view of the common concern for the respect of pluralistic parliamentary democracy, the rule of law and human rights and in order to promote the parliamentary dialogue, the President of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the one hand and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the other, have agreed on the following:

- agendas for the plenary sessions shall be exchanged and each Assembly shall invite the other to attend these sessions by sending one or more representatives. The President of one Assembly may address the other on special occasions;

- the Presidents of the two Assemblies or their representatives shall be invited to conferences and other events organised by the other whenever issues which are of interest to both parties are to be examined;

- committees of both Assemblies will cooperate in a pragmatic manner by exchanging relevant documents and, where appropriate, by inviting - on the authorization of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - the presidents or the rapporteurs of the relevant committees in order to exchange views on matters which are of common interest;

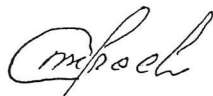
- the two Assemblies will exchange documentation, including reports and adopted texts on a regular basis to ensure that both Assemblies are fully informed of their respective activities;

- joint meetings of delegations from the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe may be held whenever appropriate;

- the Secretary General of the Council of Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Clerk of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe or their representatives will meet for consultations or exchanges of views at suitable occasions to discuss matters of common interest.

Done at St Petersburg, this 9 June 1997 in Russian and English, both texts being equally authentic.

Egor S. STROEV, President of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States



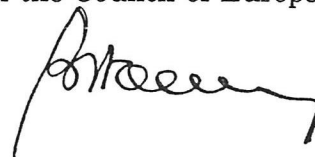
Leni FISCHER, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

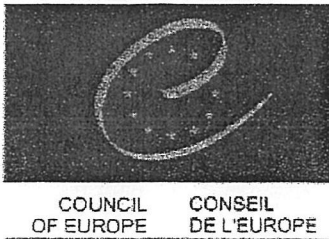


Mikhail I. KROTOV, Secretary General of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States

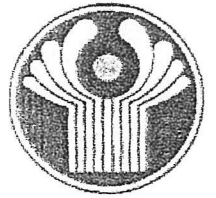


Bruno HALLER, Clerk of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe





STATEMENT
of the joint meeting
of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
and the Council of the
Interparliamentary Assembly
of Member Nations of the Commonwealth
of Independent States



On the eve of the fifth anniversary since the signing, in 1997, of the Agreement on Co-operation between the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the IPA CIS Council and PACE Bureau note with satisfaction the steady improvement in their relationship on the basis of good will and a mutual desire for co-operation. Their regular meetings are conducted in an atmosphere of openness and constructive work, they are characterised by trust and understanding.

The implementation of the Agreement of Co-operation assists the two Assemblies in their exchange of views on issues of mutual interest, in organising joint meetings, in enriching themselves with each others experience, and in initiating joint parliamentary events.

Their shared aim is further to develop parliamentary democracy ~~in Europe~~ in recognition of the rule of law and respect for human rights and freedoms. The Assemblies are ready to undertake further joint action to foster progress, mutual understanding and peace.

Several CIS member countries have recently become members of the Council of Europe - a process that has brought the two organisations even closer together and created additional opportunities for solving problems that confront both of them.

At the beginning of the new millennium, humankind faces not only new opportunities but also serious challenges and threats. One of the most ominous problems is international terrorism, which today has become a global threat to the security of countries and entire regions of the world.

Their shared concern over the increasing threat posed by international terrorism - as voiced in numerous past Declarations and Resolutions - has led them to organize the Saint Petersburg Interparliamentary Forum on Combating Terrorism.

The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

- confirming their commitment to fundamental democratic principles;
- considering the importance of developing interparliamentary contacts;
- expressing their interest in further strengthening relations;

state that they will further undertake efficient measures aimed at developing parliamentary democracy, safeguarding the rule of human rights and fortifying peace and stability across the continent.

March 26, 2002 St. Petersburg

Peter Schieder
President
of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe

Sergey Mironov
Chairman of the Council
of the Interparliamentary Assembly
of Member Nations of the CIS

JOINT STATAMENT
of the Chairman of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly
of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States
and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

On the tenth anniversary of signing of the Agreement on Cooperation between the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) the IPA CIS and the PACE witness with optimism a sustainable improvement of their relations due to their essence based on a good will and mutual wish for cooperation. Having become regular, their meetings are held in a constructive and trustful atmosphere and are remarkable for their spirit of mutual understanding and transparency.

The Agreement on Cooperation contributes to the constant exchange of opinions concerning the problems of mutual interest for both Assemblies, and to holding joint meetings and inter-parliamentary events on different levels.

Over 40 joint events and meetings were held on the basis of the Agreement on Cooperation within a decade. Joint sessions are held not only in the framework of the steering bodies but also – regularly since 2005 – on the level of the IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation and the PACE Sub-Committee on External Relations. The cooperation of both Assemblies on operating level develops efficiently and dynamically. This year for the first time a joint meeting of the IPA CIS Permanent Commissions on Culture, Information, Tourism and Sport and on Science and Education with the PACE Committee on Culture, Science and Education is held. Besides the relations within the Commissions' level there should be noticed that from 2002 the IPA CIS and the PACE together carry out the International Conference on Pan-European Cooperation, which became a good tradition and yearly gets together the heads of international parliamentary organizations, speakers of parliaments and leading representatives of politics, science and culture.

A common goal for these consolidated activities and meetings is a further development of parliamentary democracy and democratic administration with the acknowledgment of the rule of law and protection of human rights and freedoms. The practice showed the necessity of further development of consolidated actions by the IPACIS and the PACE for the purpose of progress, peace, respect for human rights and mutual understanding between different nations and cultures.

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Chairman of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

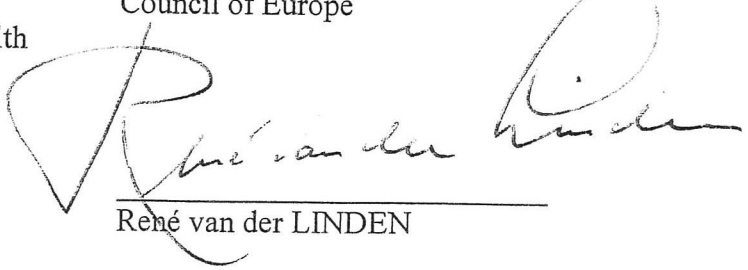
basing upon the necessity of widening of inter-parliamentary contacts,
emphasizing the need for the development of parliamentary democracy, supremacy of human rights and strengthening peace and stability in the region,
expressing the interest in further broadening of relations,
declare that they will further undertake joint actions aimed at the development and deepening of relations between the Assemblies and also for the welfare of the maintenance of peace and consent of our countries and peoples.

Adopted on 31 May 2007 in Saint Petersburg.

Chairman of the Council
of the Interparliamentary Assembly
of Member Nations of the Commonwealth
of Independent States


Sergey MIRONOV

President of the parliamentary Assembly of the
Council of Europe


René van der LINDEN