

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons Commission des migrations, des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées

The Chairperson

Strasbourg, 20 October 2015

Dear Chair,

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is organising an international parliamentary Conference on "A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe" to be held on 16 December 2015 in the French National Assembly in Paris.

The objective of this high-level conference is to provide a platform for a political dialogue between parliamentarians from Council of Europe member States and from neighbouring countries directly affected by the ongoing migration crisis, as well as other stakeholders in the field of refugees and migration. The participants will be invited to discuss specific challenges faced by the countries of first asylum, transit countries and countries of destination, and possible short and medium term solutions as well as root causes of increased migratory flows, sustainable solutions and co-operation with the countries of origin.

In this respect, I have the honour of inviting you (or your representative) and one other member of your Committee representing a different political option (majority or opposition as appropriate) to represent your Parliament at this conference. The working languages will be English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Arabic. Documents will be available in English and French. You will find herewith a preliminary draft programme of the conference.

Once we have received your confirmation, an official invitation letter detailing practical aspects of the engagement will be sent to you. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could confirm whether you (or your representative) are in a position to accept this invitation by 16 November 2015.

Mr Fernando NEGRÃO Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees Assembleia da República Palácio de S. Bento 1249-068 Lisbon, PORTUGAL Comissao.1A-CACDLGXII@ar.parlamento.pt

Cc: Secretary to the PACE Delegation, Ms Ana Milheiriço GARIP.APCE@ar.parlamento.pt Ms Agnieszka Nachilo, Head of the Department (tel. + 33 3 88 41 29 05, email: <u>agnieszka.nachilo@coe.int</u>) and Ms Agnès Nollinger, Head of the Secretariat of the Committee, (tel. +33 3 88 41 22 88, fax: +33 3 88 41 27 97, e-mail: <u>agnes.nollinger@coe.int</u>) can provide your secretariat with any further information you may require.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Thierry Mariani Chairperson