

DELEGATION OF THE
NETHERLANDS TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)

25 JANUARI 2017

Mr Pedro Agramunt Font de Mora
President of the Parliamentary
Assembly of the Council of Europe;
The members of the Bureau

Dear Mr President, dear members of the Bureau,

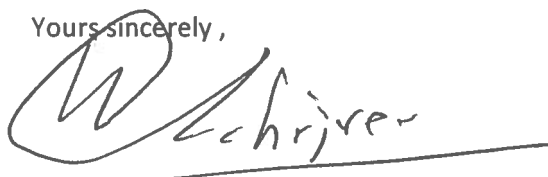
The delegation of the Netherlands to the PACE has with concern taken note of reports regarding inappropriate lobbying and alleged corruption by members and former members of the PACE.

According to a report of the European Stability Initiative (ESI) the Council of Europe's activities on human rights issues would have been influenced allegedly by transferring sums of money and favours to key parliamentarians in exchange for their voting behaviour. The delegation of the Netherlands is deeply concerned about these allegations and the credibility and the image of the Council of Europe which are consequently at stake.

The delegation of the Netherlands urges you, pursuant to the Rules in the Assembly's Code of Conduct, to take the following steps immediately:

- 1) Order an investigation, made by competent experts in the matter, into the circumstances surrounding the PACE vote on political prisoners in January 2013;
- 2) Scrutinize the existing rules concerning integrity and compliance within the PACE in order to ensure adherence to the highest standards by its members and examine to what extent in future they should apply to former members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nico Schrijver', written over a horizontal line.

Prof. Dr. Nico Schrijver,
Senator,
Head of the delegation of the Netherlands

c.c. Secretary General of PACE
Mr Wojciech Sawicki

