

1. udvalgssekretariat



NATO's Parlamentariske Forsamling - NPA

Folketingets delegation til NATO's Parlamentariske Forsamling (NPA) består af fem medlemmer og fem stedfortrædere. Medlemmer og stedfortrædere deltager på lige fod i forsamlingens aktiviteter.

1. Udvalgssekretariat i Folketinget bistår Folketingets delegation til (NPA) ved:
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overassistent Monica Krenkel (tlf. 33 37 36 23).

NATO's Parlamentariske Forsamling (NPA) er den interparlamentariske organisation for parlamentarikere i NATO's medlemslande og NATO's associerede medlemmer. Forsamlingen bringer europæiske og nordamerikanske lovgivere sammen for at diskutere spørgsmål af fælles interesse og relevans. Forsamlingen er uafhængig af NATO, men den udgør et bånd mellem de nationale parlamenter i medlemslandene og alliancen, og den yder et væsentligt bidrag til styrkelse af sammenholdet i alliancen. Forsamlingen er gennem sit virke desuden en påmindelse om, at beslutninger der træffes i NATO-regi, i sidste ende er afhængige af den politiske opbakning i medlemslandenes parlamenter.

Forsamlingens primære formål er af oplysende og konsensuskabende karakter, herunder at belyse og drøfte forsvars- og sikkerhedspolitiske emner med henblik på at skabe fælles fodslag for den fremtidige udvikling af NATO. Udveksling af oplysninger om – og baggrunden for – nationale holdninger og interesser er således et væsentligt element i forsamlingens arbejde. På grundlag af drøftelser i forsamlingens organer styrkes indsatsen for fælles interesser, og grundlaget for en senere national stillingtagen til et bredt spektrum af emner og spørgsmål udbygges. Forsamlingen er også et forum for afprøvning og vurdering af den parlamentariske og offentlige holdning til aktuelle spørgsmål i relation til NATO. I denne sammenhæng spiller forsamlingen en indirekte, men vigtig rolle i den politiske meningsdannelse. anbefalinger og resolutioner fra Forsamlingen fremsendes til de nationale regeringer, parlamenter, NATO's generalsekretær og andre relevante organisationer. På grundlag af drøftelser i NATO's Permanente Råd formulerer NATO's generalsekretær reaktioner og svar på forsamlingens anbefalinger og resolutioner.

NPA's formål kan sammenfattes således:

- at fremme dialog mellem parlamentarikere om vigtige sikkerhedspolitiske emner,

- at fremme den parlamentariske opmærksomhed på og forståelse for centrale sikkerhedspolitiske emner og alliancepolitik,
- at forsyne NATO og dens medlemslande med en indikation af den kollektive parlamentariske opinion,
- at fremme større forståelse for NATO's politik og dermed en større grad af kollektiv ansvarlighed,
- at styrke det transatlantiske forhold,
- at fremme udviklingen af parlamentarisk demokrati i hele det euro-atlantiske område gennem en integration i NPA's arbejde af parlamentarikere fra ikke-medlemslande,
- at yde direkte assistance til de parlamenter, der aktivt søger medlemskab af NATO,
- at øge samarbejdet med de lande, der søger samarbejde med frem for medlemskab af NATO,
- at assistere udviklingen af de parlamentariske mekanismer og den praksis, som er nødvendig for den effektive demokratiske kontrol med de militære styrker.

NPA mødes to gange om året i plenum, en forårssession på tre til fire dage og en efterårssession på fem dage. Møderne afholdes i medlemslande og associerede medlemslande på skift efter invitation fra de nationale parlamenter.

Forsamlingens øverste organ er den stående komité (Standing Committee), som består af forsamlingens ledelse og de nationale delegationsledere. Det løbende arbejde foregår i forsamlingens fem komiteer: Den Politiske Komité, Forsvars- og Sikkerhedskomiteen, Den Økonomiske Komité, Den Videnskabelige Komité og Komiteen for Civile Anliggender samt et antal underkomiteer. Efter behov nedsættes ad hoc-komiteer og arbejdsgrupper. Komiteerne studerer og drøfter alle væsentlige, aktuelle spørgsmål inden for deres respektive interesseområder. Komiteerne mødes regelmæssigt og gennemfører studieture. Endvidere rapporterer komiteerne mundtligt og skriftligt om behandlede emner til forsamlingens plenarmøder.

En gang årligt gennemføres en studietur (Annual Tour) for højst to parlamentarikere fra hvert medlemsland.

Folketingets delegation til NPA består af fem medlemmer og fem stedfortrædere. Medlemmer og stedfortrædere deltager på lige fod i forsamlingens aktiviteter. Den aktuelle sammensætning af Folketingets delegation til NPA kan læses på Folketingets netsted www.ft.dk, under mappen "om Folketinget" og derefter "udvalg og kommissioner". Delegationen sammensættes således, at hvert medlem som udgangspunkt tildeles hovedansvaret for en af NPA's fem komiteer og, at der er en stedfortræder for hvert medlem. Hovedopgaven for den danske delegation og dets medlemmer består således i at deltage og engagere sig i de respektive komiteers møder, i plenarforsamlingen, i studierejser samt i øvrige aktiviteter, der afvikles inden for NPA's Parlamentariske Forsamling. Derudover afholdes der interne møder i den danske delegation med henblik på bl.a. at forberede deltagelsen i de to årlige plenarmøder i NPA.

NPA har et fast internationalt sekretariat, der er beliggende i Bruxelles. Der er ansat ca. 30 medarbejdere, som ledes af en generalsekretær.

Yderligere oplysninger om NPA kan findes på forsamlingens hjemmeside: www.nato-pa.int

Til yderligere orientering fremsendes

- Liste over medlemmer og stedfortrædere i NPA delagationen
- Factsheet om NPA
- Papir om Informations- og baggrundsformidling om internationale forhold

Membership of the Assembly

26 Member Delegations

Delegates

Belgium	7
Bulgaria	6
Canada	12
Czech Republic	7
Denmark	5
Estonia	3
France	18
Germany	18
Greece	7
Hungary	7
Iceland	3
Italy	18
Latvia	3
Lithuania	4
Luxembourg	3
Netherlands	7
Norway	5
Poland	12
Portugal	7
Romania	10
Slovakia	5
Slovenia	3
Spain	12
Turkey	12
United Kingdom	18
United States	36

Associate Members

13 Associate Delegations

Delegates

Albania	3
Armenia	3
Austria	5
Azerbaijan	5
Croatia	3
Finland	4
Georgia	4
Moldova	3
Russia	10
Sweden	5
Switzerland	5
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3
Ukraine	6

The European Parliament is entitled to send 10 delegates to Assembly Sessions and can participate in most Committee and Sub-Committee activities.

Mediterranean Associate Delegation Morocco

Parliamentary Observer nations are entitled to send three delegates to Assembly Sessions. Parliamentary Observer nations are Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Montenegro, and Tunisia.

Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups

Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security (CDS)

Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance

Defence and Security Committee (DSC)

Sub-Committee on Future Security and Defence Capabilities

Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Co-operation

Economics and Security Committee (ESC)

Sub-Committee on East-West Economic Co-operation and Convergence

Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations

Political Committee (PC)

Sub-Committee on NATO Partnerships

Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Relations

Science and Technology Committee (STC)

Sub-Committee on the Proliferation of Military Technology

Mediterranean Special Group (GSM)

NATO-Russia Parliamentary Committee

Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council (UNIC)

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NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Solidarity

Dialogue

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The Role of the Assembly

Bringing together members of parliaments throughout the Atlantic Alliance, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has provided for half a century an essential link between NATO and the parliaments of the NATO nations, helping to build parliamentary and public consensus in support of Alliance policies.

At the same time, it has facilitated parliamentary awareness and understanding of key security issues and provided greater transparency of NATO policies. Crucially, it has also helped to maintain and strengthen the transatlantic relationship which underpins the Alliance.

Since the end of the Cold War the Assembly has assumed a new role by integrating into its work parliamentarians from those countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and beyond who seek a closer association with NATO. This integration has provided both political and practical assistance and has contributed to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy throughout the Euro-Atlantic region, thereby complementing and reinforcing NATO's own programme of partnership and co-operation.

The Assembly is directly funded by member parliaments and governments, and is financially and administratively separate from NATO itself.

The headquarters of the Assembly's 30-strong International Secretariat is in central Brussels

How the Assembly works

The NATO PA is made up of 248 delegates from the 26 NATO member countries; 59 from the 13 associate member countries; and a delegation from the European Parliament. Delegations from a wide range of countries, including those in the southern Mediterranean region, also participate as parliamentary observers.

The leadership of the Assembly is the President, five Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer. The Standing Committee is made up of the heads of each member delegation.

The International Secretariat under Secretary General, Simon Lunn, is responsible for all administration and the bulk of research and analysis that supports the Assembly's Committees, Sub-Committees and other groups.

The Committees are: Civil Dimension of Security; Defence and Security; Economics and Security; Political, Science and Technology. They are charged with examining all major contemporary issues in their fields. Other Assembly bodies include the Mediterranean Special Group to enhance parliamentary dialogue and understanding with nations of the Southern Mediterranean region, the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council and the NATO-Russia Parliamentary Committee where the leaders of the 26 Assembly's member delegations and those of the Russian Federal Assembly meet in an "at 27" format.

The Committees and Sub-Committees all produce reports which are discussed in draft form at the Assembly's Spring Session. The reports are then revised and up-dated for discussion, amendment and adoption at the Assembly's Annual Session.

At the Annual Session, the Committees also produce policy recommendations - resolutions - which are voted on by the full Assembly and forwarded to the North Atlantic Council and/or to member governments.

As well as meetings during Sessions, the Committees and Sub-Committees meet several times a year in member and associate nations where they receive briefings from leading government and parliamentary representatives, as well as senior academics and experts.

The Rose-Roth Programme

A central part of the Assembly's work is the Rose-Roth programme of partnership and co-operation - initially with CEE countries but subsequently throughout the Euro-Atlantic region. This programme seeks to assist the countries of CEE 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.

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.

The New Parliamentarians Programme

In 2000, the Assembly launched its "New Parliamentarians Programme". This provides parliamentarians, who are new to parliament or to international functions within their parliament, with a grounding in the role and rationale for today's NATO. The first orientation course involving 42 parliamentarians from 26 nations took place at NATO headquarters in July 2000.

The Programme is now held annually in July. Along with certain events in the Rose-Roth programme, the New Parliamentarians Programme benefits from the generous support of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

The Transatlantic Parliamentary Forum

With concerns growing about a developing transatlantic 'drift' in attitudes and policies, the Assembly's Standing Committee in 2001 decided to organize a "Transatlantic Parliamentary Forum" to help determine the nature of transatlantic divergences, and perhaps develop ideas for redressing them.

The first Forum was held in Washington, DC in December 2001 in cooperation with the Atlantic Council of the United States and the National Defense University. Three further meetings have been held, and the Forum is now an annual Assembly event.