



THE PRESIDENT  
LA PRÉSIDENTE

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## FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL MEMBERS

12 September, 2023

Dear colleagues,

It is with some sadness that I am writing to you today to inform you of my decision not to stand for re-election in the French Senate elections, which will take place on 24 September.

My greatest regret will be that I will soon have to leave our Assembly, at a crucial time both for NATO and for this Ukraine for which we are all feel so strongly. I have had a great deal of personal, political and intellectual satisfaction throughout my years of commitment to this Assembly since I joined in 2008. However, after nearly twenty years as a member of the Senate and due to concerns about my husband's health, I feel that it is now time to turn the page and reduce my activities so that I can devote more time to him, who has always supported me with great self-sacrifice over all these years.

Of course, I shall continue to carry out my duties as President to the fullest until the last day, which will be 1 October, when I shall cease to be a Senator and my term of office as President of the Assembly will come to an end. Indeed, the day before, I will be addressing the Conference of Presidents of all the member countries of the Council of Europe to inform them of our work.

I would like to thank you all most sincerely for the trust you have placed in me and for your commitment to our Assembly. Over the past year, I have endeavoured to continue to defend and advance the Assembly's priorities on your behalf at a pivotal moment for Euro-Atlantic security. It was with pride and gravity that I conveyed our message of unwavering support to our Ukrainian friends during my last visit to Kyiv - and Borodianka - in February. I am also very pleased about the progress in terms of the recognition that our Assembly has recently received from NATO. The invitation extended to me to take part in Finland's accession ceremony at NATO headquarters on 4 April, alongside Allied foreign ministers, is proof of that. Similarly, the way in which our delegation was received and involved in the meetings and events held during the Vilnius Summit was quite remarkable. I also had the great honour to present to the NATO Heads of State and Government our priorities for Ukraine, for NATO's adaptation and for operationalising NATO's commitment to our shared democratic values. Moreover, I had the privilege of promoting the Assembly's priorities at the NATO Public Forum alongside leading European and American parliamentarians.

In the coming weeks, I will continue to highlight the Assembly's priorities during my final engagements as President. And you can rest assured that, in the future too, I will continue to do everything in my power to support Ukraine, to strengthen our remarkable Alliance and to promote our Assembly and its all-important mission.



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As foreseen in our Rules of Procedure, the Bureau has appointed our excellent colleague and Vice-President Michal Szczerba (Poland) to serve as Acting President from 2 October when my mandate will have lapsed and to fulfil the remainder of this mandate. This allows for a perfectly smooth transition at this critical time for Euro-Atlantic security. Naturally, this appointment will be submitted for final approval by the Standing Committee at its next meeting on Sunday 8 October.

I also want to inform you that the Bureau has appointed Marcos Perestrello (Portugal) as Acting Vice-President, with immediate effect, to replace outgoing Vice-President Zaida Cantera (Spain), who was unfortunately not re-elected in the 23 July Spanish parliamentary elections. This appointment will also be submitted to the Standing Committee for final approval at its next meeting on Sunday 8 October.

Allow me to thank you once again, dear colleagues, for your trust, your support and your ongoing commitment to our great Assembly. I look forward to hearing from you and to being of service if I can. My personal email address is [j.garriaud@gmail.com](mailto:j.garriaud@gmail.com) and my mobile number is +33 617038327.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Joëlle Garriaud'.

Joëlle Garriaud-Maylam  
President

