



## Council of Europe: Contribution of Lords Members QSD on 24 July 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Balfe to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the contribution of Members of the House of Lords to the work of the Council of Europe.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### Key Information

- Council of Europe, [An Overview](#), 2016; [The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe](#), 2013

*Brochures from the Council of Europe giving an overview of the Council as well as one of its bodies, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). The Council of Europe has 47 member states and works to “strengthen human rights, democracy and the rule of law throughout the continent and beyond”. The Parliamentary Assembly is made up of parliamentarians from the Council’s member states and has initiated many of the Council’s conventions, such as the European Convention on Human Rights.*

- UK Parliament Website, '[Membership of the UK Delegation](#)', 19 June 2018; '[PACE—Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights](#)'; '[PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons](#)'; '[PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#)'; '[PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination](#)'; '[PACE Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy](#)'; '[PACE Legal Affairs and Human Rights](#)'; and '[PACE Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development Committee](#)', accessed 15 July 2019

*Pages from the UK Parliament website detailing the current UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and their membership of PACE committees and sub-committees.*

### Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Debate on 'Council of Europe'](#), HC Hansard, 18 April 2018, cols 115WH–36WH
- House of Lords, '[Written Statement: Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council](#)', 20 June 2019, HLWS1606
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Europe: Foreign Relations](#)', 5 February 2019, HLI3019

## Press Articles and Comment

- Tom Embury-Dennis, '[UK Government Criticises Council of Europe Decision to Lift Sanctions Against Russia](#)', *Independent*, 26 June 2019
- Stephen Clear, '[UK Human Rights Act is at Risk of Repeal—Here's Why it Should be Protected](#)', *The Conversation*, 12 February 2019
- Parliamentary Assembly News, '[Encouraging the Movement of International Students Across Europe](#)', 25 January 2018; '[A New Role For Libraries and Museums as “Digital Hubs”](#)', 4 March 2016; '[Combatting Violence Against Children Should be a National Priority](#)', 27 June 2019; '[PACE Spells Out National Steps to Reduce Climate Change](#)', 24 April 2018; '[Committee Backs New Principles Aimed at Ensuring Ombudspersons Stay Independent](#)', 9 July 2019; and '[Call For Respect of Confidentiality of Journalists' Sources](#)', 7 September 2018

## Further Information

- Stefanie Schmahl and Martin Breuer (eds), *The Council of Europe: Its Laws and Policies*, 2017
- House of Commons Library, '[What is the Council of Europe?](#)', 27 July 2017
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[UK to Chair Council of Europe](#)', 28 October 2011
- Owen Bowcott, '[Council of Europe Accepts UK Compromise on Prisoner Voting Rights](#)', *Guardian*, 7 December 2017

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