



# *Council of Europe*

## *Parliamentary Assembly*

*The President*

Strasbourg, 18 January 2016

Dear Ms Matvienko,  
Dear Mr Naryshkin,

I would like to thank you for your letter communicated to me on 18 January 2016 in which you inform me of the decision of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation not to submit the credentials of the Russian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in time for the opening of the 2016 Assembly session opening on 25 January 2016.

In this respect I would like to bring to your attention that, in line with Article 25 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Assembly, this means that there will be no delegation of the Russian Federation taking part in the work of the Assembly throughout the whole of 2016, or at least until the next parliamentary elections take place in Russia.

In line with your request, I am distributing a copy of your letter to members of the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as to the leaders of the political groups. I am also sending all these persons a copy of my reply to you.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Brasseur

Ms Valentina Matvienko,  
Chair of the Council of Federation of the  
Russian Federation

Mr Sergey Naryshkin,  
Chair of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

*Postal address:*  
*F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex*  
*France*

*Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 41 20 94*  
*Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 27 96*  
*anne.brasseur@coe.int*