

## Letter from Léon Marchal to Guy Mollet (Strasbourg, 28 February 1956)

**Caption:** On 28 February 1956, Léon Marchal, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, sends a letter to Guy Mollet, French President of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, in which he emphasises that the Committee of Ministers wishes to invite Austria to accede to the Council of Europe.

**Source:** Council of Europe-Consultative Assembly-Standing Committee. 16.03.1956, n° A. 26.466 Confidential AS/CP (7) 2. Strasbourg: Council of Europe.

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No. 2342

Strasbourg, 28th February, 1956.

Monsieur Guy Mollet  
President of the Consultative Assembly  
of the Council of Europe,  
55, Avenue Kléber  
Paris, 16.

Monsieur le Président,

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with Article 4 of the Statute, the Committee of Ministers proposes very shortly to invite Austria to become a Member of the Council of Europe.

The Committee of Ministers would be glad if this invitation could be extended in time to enable Austria to take part in the forthcoming Sessions of the two organs of the Council, which are due to be held in the second half of April.

Before this can be done, however, the Committee of Ministers must, in accordance with the terms of Resolution (51) 30 A, first of all consult the Consultative Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would bring the intentions of the Committee of Ministers to the knowledge of the competent organs of the Assembly.

The responsibility for deciding what procedure shall be followed in order to obtain the views of the Assembly will, of course, rest with you and with these bodies.

It might, in this connection, be considered that the Assembly had already replied to the Committee of Ministers' request for an opinion in its Resolution 9 (51), in which it expressed "the wish that the Committee of Ministers may seize the first appropriate opportunity to invite Austria to become a Member of the Council of Europe".

If it nevertheless appears essential that the Assembly should again express its views, it would be advisable to resort to the most expeditious procedure to this end, either by convening the Standing Committee at short notice, or by individual consultation of its members in writing.

Whatever procedure you may deem it advisable to adopt, I should be grateful if you would enable me as soon as possible to bring the views of the Assembly to the knowledge of the Committee of Ministers.

Before inviting Austria to become a Member of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers must, in accordance with Article 6 of the Statute, determine the number of Representatives on the Consultative Assembly to which the proposed Member shall be entitled. Having regard to the population of Austria, which is approximately the same as that of Sweden, the committee of Ministers proposes that the number of seats to be allotted should be six.

It would be desirable for the Consultative Assembly to give its views on this point as well, in its reply to the request of the Committee of Ministers for an opinion.

I remain, Monsieur le Président,

Your most obedient Servant,

L. MARCHAL