



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
LA SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE

056 CIR 20 E

3 March 2020

## TO SECRETARIES OF DELEGATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Member,

I am profoundly saddened to inform you that former NATO PA Vice-President Bruce George of the United Kingdom passed away on Monday 24 February after a long illness.

Bruce was a member of the House of Commons for 36 years, and joined the Assembly in 1982. As a Rapporteur and Chairman of the Political Committee in the years preceding and immediately following the end of the Cold War, he was one of the leading figures who steered the Assembly through these transformative years. He wrote about this period and the Assembly's pioneering role in opening dialogue with parliaments from the former Warsaw Pact countries in the commemorative book published on the occasion of the Assembly's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, which can be found here: <https://nato-pa.int/document/nato-parliamentary-assembly-1955-2005-0>

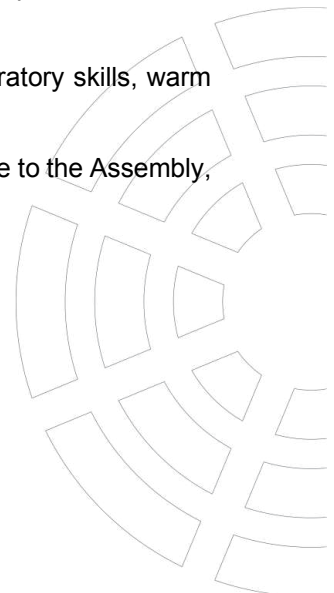
A deeply committed Atlanticist, Bruce led the UK delegation from 2005 to 2010. He was elected Vice-President of the Assembly in 2007. During his tenure on the Bureau, he helped shape the Assembly's response to the Georgia-Russia war, advocating for a firm response to Russia's actions and clear support for Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. In 2011, he was awarded the Medal of Honour by the President of Georgia in recognition of his contribution to the country's democratisation.

Bruce George left the UK Parliament in 2010. He re-joined his former Assembly colleagues for the memorable evening reception held in the Central Lobby of the UK Parliament in London on the occasion of the spring meeting of the Standing Committee in March 2015, and again for the special meeting commemorating the Assembly's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Paris in July 2015.

Bruce was an academic – by training and at heart – and author of several books on defence and transatlantic relations. He also served as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in 2002 to 2004. In both the NATO PA and the OSCE PA, he participated in and led multiple election monitoring missions – a way for him to highlight the important role of parliamentarians in upholding democratic values and assisting countries in transition.

His long-standing friends in the Assembly will remember his remarkable oratory skills, warm personality, optimism and sense of humour.

The Assembly is indebted to Bruce for the unique contributions that he made to the Assembly, particularly during key turning points in its history.





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Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Lisa George. Messages of condolence can be sent to her at:

Ms Lisa George  
c/o Stephen HABBERLEY  
Secretary, UK Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly  
Overseas Office – Parliamentary Assemblies Section  
House of Commons  
UK-SW1A 0AA LONDON

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruxandra Popa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ruxandra Popa

