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PRESS RELEASE

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has appointed Jacques Maire, President of the ALDE Group, as special rapporteur on the poisoning of Alexei Navalny.

On August 20th, the leader of the Russian opposition, Alexei Navalny, was hospitalized in Russia before being transferred two days later to Germany. At the beginning of September, the German government declared to have proof that he had been poisoned, which was then confirmed by French and Swedish laboratories. On October 6th, 2020, the poisoning was corroborated by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

As a member state of the Council of Europe, Russia has a duty of full cooperation with the institution and its Parliamentary Assembly. The PACE Legal Committee decided today, unanimously, to appoint Jacques Maire, French MP, President of the ALDE group at PACE, as rapporteur on the poisoning of Alexei Navalny.

Following the vote, Jacques Maire thanked *"all the groups' Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the 86 deputies, from 20 countries, who supported the report initiative. I also thank my colleagues on the committee for appointing me."*

He then added: *"PACE is not a judicial institution. However, it has regularly proven that it can help shed light on politically sensitive affairs such as the deaths of Sergei Magnitsky, Boris Nemtsov or Daphne Caruana Galizia. I call for broad cooperation from civil society, the media, whistleblowers, Russian authorities as well as our fellow Duma parliamentarians to help us in the search for truth. "*

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