



Information documents

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Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1469th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (14 June 2023)

¹ This document covers activities of the Assembly since the meeting of the Bureau of 28 April 2023 up to the meeting of the Bureau of 19 June 2023.

I. Main developments between the Assembly's April part-session and the June part-session

A. Assembly's response to the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine

During the reporting period, the Assembly continued its work, in particular at Committee level, on addressing the multifaceted consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine. A number of key reports are under preparation, including on the political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and the legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine. A number of hearings and fact-finding visits were carried out or are planned in the near future. Moreover, the Assembly also started discussing whether, in the background of the war of aggression launched against Ukraine, Russian and Belarusian athletes should take part in the Olympic games. Most recently, a current affairs debate on this matter was held during the Standing Committee meeting in Riga. The debate was introduced by Mr Indrek Saar (Estonia, SOC), who underlined that the Olympic Charter clearly states that the goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity. The Russian war of aggression, he stressed, is an indisputable breach of this principle. This discussion is likely to continue during the June part-session of the Assembly as the leaders of the Assembly's five political groups tabled a request for urgent debate on "War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?".

On 6 June 2023, the Council of Europe's leaders – the Secretary General, the Chair of the Committee of Ministers and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly – issued a [joint statement](#) condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam in the Kherson region of Ukraine. They stressed that such a reckless act triggered the displacement of numerous civilians and endangered their livelihoods. They also expressed concern by the potential hazardous consequences on the environment, energy security and nuclear safety which may reach beyond Ukraine. The leaders condemned once again the brutal, unjustified and unprovoked large-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and reiterated that the Council of Europe is determined to support and promote national and international efforts to ensure accountability.

B. Reykjavík Summit

The Parliamentary Assembly has put all its political weight in support of the Summit, pushing for it to be held and providing a substantive input to it through a host of texts, including its [Recommendation 2245 \(2023\)](#) on 'The Reykjavík Summit of the Council of Europe - United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges'. On **15 May 2023**, on the eve of the Summit members of parliament from the 46 member States of the Council of Europe, meeting as the Parliamentary Assembly's **Standing Committee**, as well as members of other delegations to the Assembly, continued to be part of this process and held a discussion on two themes which were at the heart of the Summit's deliberations (Appendix I). Introductory remarks by Birgir Ármannsson, Speaker of the Alþingi (Parliament of Iceland), Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament of Ukraine), Bjarni Jónsson, Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the PACE, and Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, were followed by two discussion panels. The first focused on "**The Council of Europe as a key player of the multilateral architecture**", with the participation of Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland; Sylvie Bermann, former Ambassador of France to Beijing, London, and Moscow; and Alice Bergholtz, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. The second panel focused on "**The Council of Europe as a pioneer of human rights protection: the new generation of rights**", with the participation of Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland; Ilze Brands Kehris, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights; Nathalie Smuha, Institute for European Law, KU Leuven, expert on Artificial Intelligence; and Tinna Hallgrímsdóttir, youth representative in the Icelandic Climate Council. The exchange of views with members of the Assembly concluded with a statement by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of the Belarus democratic opposition, and final remarks by Icelandic Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir and PACE President Tiny Kox.

The Standing Committee meeting was preceded by a round table “**A Democracy fit for the future**” (Appendix II), organised in cooperation with the Institute of International Affairs at the University of Iceland and the Icelandic Parliament. Participation was also open to students of the University of Iceland and youth representatives. The debate was incredibly stimulating and energising. It was also important and symbolic to start the Assembly’s meetings ahead of the Reykjavik Summit with an event open to youth activists and students. The exchanges allowed in fact members of the Assembly to put youth voices at the top of the agenda and to have their thoughts inspiring their discussions during the whole day. At the end of the round table, Iceland’s Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir and PACE President Tiny Kox launched the ‘**Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment**’, in the presence of Council of Europe Secretary General and former Icelandic President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, the first woman in the world to be elected as a Head of State, to whom the Prize pays tribute. This new annual prize will reward outstanding initiatives which promote the empowerment of women in all their diversity, with a broad remit covering achievements in gender equality or equal access to participation and decision-making, as well as action to encourage inclusive policies and practice. Eligible candidates can be individuals or civil society groups. The prize will be presented during each June part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly as from June 2024.

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Tiny Kox, addressed participants of the Summit at the opening of the General Debate. The President underlined that restoring, strengthening and perhaps re-inventing European democratic security and rules-based multilateralism against aggressive unilateralism has become an existential challenge and a main reason to meet in Reykjavik. He expressed the Assembly’s full support to the Reykjavik process and, in particular, for the creation of a comprehensive system to ensure the accountability of the Russian Federation, including an ad hoc tribunal for the crime of aggression, a Register of Damage and viable mechanism to ensure the return of abducted children back home as its cornerstone. He stressed that the Assembly also fully supports a better safeguarded European Convention on Human Rights, with the authority of the Court better protected and the execution of its judgements better guaranteed. The President also referred to the importance of reversing the dangerous backsliding of democracy by addressing its root causes and formulating binding principles for democracy in all member States, and recognising the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a fundamental human right.

During the **Standing Committee meeting in Riga** on 26 May 2023, members of the Parliamentary Assembly had the chance to have a first **exchange on views on the follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit** and the role of the Parliamentary Assembly in implementing its decisions. During a current affairs debate, members of the Assembly recognised that an ambitious roadmap was set out in Reykjavik, acknowledging the impact of the Council of Europe in fostering greater unity between member States, as well as its central role in the evolving of European multilateral architecture. Members of the Assembly recognised that, as a statutory organ, the Assembly should contribute to translate the Summit vision into concrete results. The debate culminated with the adoption of a [declaration](#) welcoming the Reykjavik process and highlighting the priority areas for action, namely: supporting Ukraine and ensuring that the Russian Federation is held accountable; supporting and strengthening the Convention system; disseminating the Reykjavik Principles in order to both tackle democratic backsliding and revitalising democracy; strengthening the role of the Organisation in developing legal standards in emerging areas of concerns, including environmental protection and new technologies.

II. Meeting of the Standing Committee (Reykjavik, 15 May 2023)

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 15 May in Reykjavik, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

- heard a welcome address by Mr Birgir Ármannsson, Speaker of Alþingi – Parliament of Iceland;
- heard an online address by Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
- within the framework of the Special event on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe – United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges:
 - heard the introductory remarks by Mr Bjarni Jónsson, Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly;
 - heard the remarks by Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- held a panel discussion on “The Council of Europe as a key player of the multilateral architecture”, moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of Ms Þórdís Kolbrún Reykjavík Gylfadóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland; Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly; Ms Sylvie Bermann, former Ambassador of France to Beijing, London, and Moscow; and Ms Alice Bergholtz, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe;
- held a panel discussion on “The Council of Europe as a pioneer of human rights protection: the new generation of rights”, moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland; Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly; Ms Ilze Brands Kehris, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights; Ms Nathalie Smuha, Researcher and Assistant Lecturer, Institute for European Law, KU Leuven, expert on Artificial Intelligence; and Ms Tinna Hallgrímsdóttir, youth representative in the Icelandic Climate Council;
- heard an address by Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition;
- heard concluding remarks by Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, and Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Riga, Latvia, on 26 May 2023.

III. Meeting of the Bureau (25 May 2023)

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 25 May 2023, in Riga, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and held an exchange of views with the Secretary General;
- **4th Council of Europe Heads of State and Government Summit (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023):** took note of the Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit by the Heads of State and Government and considered a draft Declaration on the follow-up to the 4th Summit with a view to its adoption by the Standing Committee;
- **Standing Committee in Riga (26 May 2023):**
 - requests for current affairs debates: took note of the requests by the leaders of the five political groups to hold debates on:
 - “The follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit”, decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate and appointed Ms Fiona O’Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) as the first speaker;
 - “Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics”, decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate and appointed M. Indrek Saar (Estonia, SOC) as the first speaker;
 - updated the draft agenda (see Appendix III);
- **Third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June):**
 - took note of the requests to hold debates under urgent procedure on:
 - “Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor” tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons;
 - “Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine” tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;
 - “War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?” tabled by the leaders of the five political groups;

- decided, for the third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June), to organise the seating in the hemicycle according to political groups;
- drew-up the draft agenda;
- **Application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30:** upon proposals by the President, appointed Ms Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Mr Thomas Markert, as the eminent lawyers who, according to established practice, will draw up a report for the attention of the Bureau assessing the conformity of the applicant's legal system with Council of Europe standards;
- **Elections observation:**
 - Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (2 April 2023): approved the [report](#) by the observation mission;
 - Türkiye: Presidential and parliamentary elections (14 May 2023): took note of the [statement](#) by the observation mission;
 - Montenegro: parliamentary elections (11 June 2023): approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee (appendix IV) and appointed Mr Reinhold LOPATKA (Austria, EPP/CD) as Chairperson;
- **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:** authorised
 - the rapporteur on “The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms”, to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
 - the rapporteur on “Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America”, to carry out fact-finding visits to Parlatino (Panama), and to Colombia and Mexico (at no cost to the Assembly), in the course of 2023, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
- **2023 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November):** took note of the concept paper and decide to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum;

IV. Meeting of the Standing Committee (Riga, 26 May 2023)

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 26 May 2023 in Riga, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

- heard the welcome address by Mr Edvards Smiltēns, Speaker of the Saeima;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia;
- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Austria, Georgia, Germany and the Republic of Moldova ;
- approved changes in the composition of Assembly committees;
- took note of the draft agenda of the third part-session of the Assembly (19-23 June 2023);
- ratified the references proposed by the Bureau (see Appendix V);
- held a current affairs debate on “The follow-up to the Reykjavík Summit”, heard a statement by Ms Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights, and adopted a declaration as amended (Appendix VI) ;
- took note of the report of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (2 April 2023);

- held an exchange of views with Mr Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank;
- held a current affairs debate on “Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics” and heard a statement by Mr Kaspars Cipruss, Secretary General of the Latvian Basketball Federation;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, on 28 November 2023.

In the framework of the Standing Committee meeting in Riga, the [Women@PACE group](#) also held an [exchange of views](#) with Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, who served as the President of Latvia from 1999 to 2007. She was the first woman to hold the post in the country.

V. Third part of the 2023 Ordinary Session (19-23 June 2023)

The draft agenda of the part-session (appendix VII), as well as the list of hearings and exchanges of views open to the public (appendix VIII), are enclosed to the present Communication.

Turning to practical organisation of the part-session, plenary sittings will continue to be held in the hemicycle of the European Parliament. All other official meetings (Committees, political groups, Bureau and Joint Committee) will be held at the Palais de l’Europe (meeting rooms on the second floor).

VI. Prizes

➤ Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment

The [Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment](#) – a joint initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and of the Government of Iceland – was officially launched in Reykjavík on the eve of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of Council of Europe Member States. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and former Icelandic President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, the first woman in the world to be democratically elected as a Head of State, to whom the Prize pays tribute. The [regulations of the Prize](#) were adopted by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on 27 April 2023 and approved by the Parliamentary Assembly on 28 April 2023.

VII. Activities of committees and networks, and election observation missions

➤ On 8 May 2023, meeting in Vienna, the **No Hate Parliamentary Alliance:**

. held a parliamentary conference “Countering hate speech and hate crime. Intersectional approach – data collection – victims’ protection”; with the participation of: Ms Fiorentina Azizi-Hacker, Head of Counselling Centre !AgainstRacism and of Counselling Centre #AgainstOnlineHate, Austria; Ms Johanna Eteme, Head of Department, Austrian Ministry of the Interior and Ms Sandra Konstatzky, Director, Office of the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment.

➤ On 11 May 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:**

. held an exchange of views on *Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers - a call to clarify their fate*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Julian Pahlke (Germany, SOC), with the participation of Ms Tania Delabarde, Forensic anthropologist, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Paris, and Mr Syd Bolton, co-founder, Last Rights Project, United Kingdom.

➤ On 11 May 2023, in Seville (Spain), the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:**

. held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Pilar Llop Cuenca, Minister of Justice of Spain;

. held an exchange of views on *Interconnections between the Council of Europe and the European Political Community*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), with the

participation of Mr Szabolcs Horvath, Political and Legal Advisor, Cabinet Member of European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood, European Commission;

. held a hearing on *Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), with the participation of Ms Carmen Almendras Camargo, former Vice-Chancellor of Bolivia; Mr Enrique Ojeda Vila, Director General of Casa América, Spain; and Mr Javier Velasco Villegas, Ambassador of Chile to Spain.

➤ On 12 May 2023, in Seville (Spain), the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**:

. held a hearing on *Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro (Spain, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Nicolás De Pedro, Senior Fellow at the Institute for Statecraft, London, and former member of the Experts Pool on Russia at the European Center of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE), Helsinki; and Mr Rainer Jungwirth, Team leader for research on critical infrastructure protection and hybrid threats, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission, Ispra, Italy.

➤ On 14 and 28 May 2023, an **ad hoc committee of the Bureau** chaired by Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC), observed the conduct of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Türkiye, in the framework of an International Election Observation Missions (IEOM) (partner organisations: OSCE-PA and ODIHR). Press statements available [here](#) and [here](#).

➤ On 22 May 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

. held an exchange of views on *The European Social Charter: outlook for social rights after the Reykjavík Summit* with Ambassador Joan Forner Rovira, Permanent Representative of Andorra to the Council of Europe and Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group of the Committee of Ministers on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC);

. held a hearing on *Detention of the “socially maladjusted”*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), with the participation of Mr Marius Turda, Professor of 20th Century Central and Eastern European Biomedicine, Oxford Brookes University, UK; Ms Boglárka Benko, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe; Mr Thomas Kattau, Deputy Executive Director, Pompidou Group (Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions); and Ms Laura Marchetti, Policy Manager, Mental Health Europe, Brussels.

➤ On 22 May 2023, in Brussels, the **Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe**:

. held a conference on *Finding Safety: Guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe*, with the participation of Sonia Lenegan, Legal and Policy Director, Rainbow Migration, United Kingdom; Sofia D’Arcio, Legal Officer, Dutch Council of Refugees, Netherlands, Akram Kubanychbekov, Senior Advocacy Officer, ILGA-Europe; Farah Abdi, Policy Officer, Asylum, Transgender Europe (TGEU) / Dimitri Verdonck, Co-founder Le Refuge Bruxelles, Rainbow Welcome Project; Nadia SACOOR, Chairperson, Clube Safo, Portugal; Cecile Becker-Christensen Saenz Guerrero, Senior Policy Officer, UNHCR Regional Representation for EU Affairs, Brussels and Elaine Tillieux, President, Chamber of Representatives, Federal Parliament of Belgium.

➤ On 22 May 2023, in Larnaca (Cyprus), the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**:

. held a hearing on *The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation* in the context of a report prepared by Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, (Iceland, SOC), with the participation of Ms Evgenia Kara-Murza, wife of the Russian opposition activist and Advocacy Coordinator at the Free Russia Foundation; Mr Denis Shedov, human rights activist and lawyer for the imprisoned municipal councilor Aleksei Gorinov Analyst at OVD-Info;

. held a hearing on *The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – inter-State cases* with the participation of Mr Polyvios G. Polyviou, Lawyer; Mr Achilleas Demetriades, Lawyer; Mr Levan Meskhoradze, Georgia and Azerbaijan Unit, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe.

➤ On 23 May 2023, in Larnaca (Cyprus), the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:**

. held a hearing on *The right to freedom of information: ensuring access to historical documents* in the context of a report prepared by Ms Klotilda Bushka, Albania, SOC with the participation of: Ms Paige Morrow, Senior Legal Advisor (External) to the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression; Mrs. Gentiana Sula, Chair of the Authority for Access into Ex Sigurimi Records during the Communist Dictatorship

➤ On 1 June 2023, in London, the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:**

. held a hearing on *Protecting human rights in and through sport: obligations and shared responsibilities* in the context of a report prepared by Mr Kim Valentin (Denmark, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Emily Logan, Commissioner, Garda Síochána Ombudsperson Commission, Ireland; Ms Olivia Jasriel, founder of the Olivia Jasriel Foundation Athletes Against Child Abuse, South Africa; Mr Patrice Evra, former captain of Manchester United and the French national team, abuse survivor and campaigner against abuse in sport and beyond; Ms Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Chair of the NGO “End child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes” (ECPAT); Ms Joyce Cook, Senior Advisor to the President’s Office (Safe Sport Entity), FIFA; Ms Kirsty Burrows, Senior Manager, Safe Sport Unit, International Olympic Committee (IOC); Mr Simon Mason, Head of Sport Strategy - Department for Culture, Media and Sport, United Kingdom; Mr Alasdair Bell, Deputy Secretary General, FIFA; Ms Ashley Ehlert, Deputy Secretary General and Legal Director, International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF); Mr Kit McConnell, Sports Director, International Olympic Committee (IOC); and Mr Alexandre Husting, Chair of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) Governing Board, Council of Europe;

. held a hearing on *Risks and opportunities of the Metaverse* in the context of a report prepared by Mr Andi-Lucian Cristea (Romania, SOC), with the participation of Ms Monique Morrow, Chair of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Global Extended Reality Working Group, and of IEEE “Standard for Ethically Aligned Design and Operation of Metaverse Systems”, Austria Ms Irene Kitsara, European Standardization Initiatives Director, IEEE, Austria; and Mr Edward Lewin, Vice-President Government and Public Affairs, the LEGO group, United Kingdom;

. held a hearing on *Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society* in the context of a report prepared by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), with the participation of Ms Beatriz Brown, Policy Lead, Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, Ministry of Justice, United Kingdom.

➤ On 11 June 2023, an **ad hoc committee of the Bureau** chaired by Mr Reinhold Lopatka (Austria, EPP/CD), observed the conduct of the early parliamentary elections in Montenegro, in the framework of an International Election Observation Missions (IEOM) (partner organisations: ODIHR and the European Parliament). Press statement available [here](#).

VIII. Fact-finding visits in the framework of the preparation of reports

➤ ***Preventing addictive behaviours in children***

Ms Diana Stoica (Romania, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Ireland on **4-5 May 2023**.

➤ ***The theme of migration and asylum in the election campaign and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants***

Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Sweden on **24-26 May 2023**.

➤ ***Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine***

Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to France on **30 May 2023**.

➤ ***Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor***

Mr Paul Gavan (Ireland, UEL), rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Armenia on **30 May-2 June 2023**.

➤ ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan***

Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom, EC/DA) and **Ms Lise Christoffersen** (Norway, SOC), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan on **4-6 June 2023**.

➤ ***Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress***

Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA), rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*, carried out a fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom on **6 June 2023**.

➤ ***Protecting the human rights and improving the lives of sex workers and victims of sexual exploitation***

Ms Margreet De Boer (Netherlands, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Brussels and Antwerp on **7-8 June 2023**.

➤ ***Preventing and combating violence against women with disabilities***

Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Denmark on **12-13 June 2023**.

IX. Seminars and conferences organised by the Assembly

9-10 May 2023, Bern: the *ad hoc* Committee for the [parliamentary conference on elections in times of crisis/ challenges and opportunities](#) took part in the parliamentary conference organised by the Parliamentary Assembly in co-operation with the Swiss Parliament ([Final Declaration](#)).

15-17 May 2023, Kehl and Strasbourg: PACE Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division organised a seminar entitled "*Information seminar and study visit for a delegation of the Chamber of Representatives of the Moroccan Parliament*" in the framework of the joint programme with the European Union "*Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco*".

26 May 2023, Riga: PACE Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division, in cooperation with the Latvian Delegation to the PACE, organised a [round table](#) on "*Artificial intelligence, freedom of expression and disinformation: challenges and risks for democracy*".

X. Relations with the Committee of Ministers

➤ **On 22 May 2023**, in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development** held an exchange of views on *The European Social Charter: outlook for social rights after the Reykjavík Summit* with Ambassador Joan Forner Rovira, Permanent Representative of Andorra to the Council of Europe and Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group of the Committee of Ministers on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC).

XI. Cooperation with the Venice Commission

- Legal advice was provided to the PACE delegation by representatives of the Venice Commission for the observation of the parliamentary and presidential elections in Türkiye on 14 and 28 May 2023.
- On 30 May 2023 in Paris, the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) agreed to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on the Judiciary Organisation Act in the Netherlands. The Committee also expressed the wish to request an urgent opinion of the Venice Commission on the Law on the State Commission to investigate Russian influence on the internal security of the Republic of Poland between 2007 and 2022 and, in the absence of quorum, to return to this issue at its next meeting.
- 135th Plenary session of the Venice Commission (9-10 June 2023) in Venice: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko, (Ukraine, EPP/CD) attended in his capacity as one of the Assembly's institutional representatives to the Venice Commission.
- Legal advice was provided to the PACE delegation by representatives of the Venice Commission for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Montenegro on 11 June 2023.

XII. External relations

- Relations with the European Parliament and other European Union institutions

- An election observation delegation of the PACE observed the parliamentary elections in Montenegro (11 June 2023) in the framework of an International Election Observation Missions (IEOM) including also the EP and ODIHR.
- On 8 May 2023, in Vienna, in the framework of the Parliamentary Conference “Countering hate speech and hate crime. Intersectional approach – data collection – victims’ protection”, members of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance held an exchange of views with Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Director, and other experts from the Fundamental Rights Agency, on recent and forthcoming activities against racism, hatred, hate speech and multiple and intersectional discrimination, on fostering equality, inclusion and participation, and on data collection methodologies, and victim protection.

- Relations with other international partners

- An election observation delegation of the PACE observed the presidential and parliamentary elections in Türkiye (14 and 28 May 2023) in the framework of an International Election Observation Missions (IEOM) including also the OSCE PA and ODIHR.
- On 8 June 2023, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, met with OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov and discussed opportunities for future cooperation.

XII. List of meetings of the committees, the Bureau and the Presidential Committee

- . **8 May 2023, Vienna:** *No Hate Parliamentary Alliance meeting*
- . **11 May 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*
- . **11-12 May 2023, Seville:** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
- . **16-17 May 2023, Reykjavik:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **22 May 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*

- . **22 May 2023, Paris:** *Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment*
- . **22 May 2023, Brussels:** *Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe*
- . **22-23 May 2023, Larnaca:** *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*
- . **25 May 2023, Riga:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **25 May 2023, Riga:** *Bureau of the Assembly*
- . **30 May 2023, Paris:** *Meeting of the Monitoring Committee*
- . **31 May 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*
- . **1 June 2023, London:** *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*

Appendix I – Draft agenda of the Standing Committee (Reykjavik, 15 May 2023)



AS/Per (2023) OJ 02rev
13 May 2023

Standing Committee

Revised draft agenda

of the meeting to be held

in Reykjavik on Monday 15 May 2023 from 14:15 to 18:30

(Venue: Iceland Parliament Hotel, Thorvaldsenstraeti 2-6, 101, Reykjavik, Iceland)

1. Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly
2. Welcome address by Mr Birgir Ármannsson, Speaker of Alþingi – Parliament of Iceland
3. Video message by Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
4. Agenda AS/Per (2023) OJ 02rev
Adoption of the revised draft agenda
5. Special event on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe - United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges

Introductory remarks by Mr Bjarni Jónsson, Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly

Remarks by Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

"The Council of Europe as a key player of the multilateral architecture"

Interactive panel discussion moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfsson, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of:

- o Ms Þórdís Kolbrún Reyktjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland
- o Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly
- o Ms Sylvie Bermann, former Ambassador of France to Beijing, London, and Moscow
- o Ms Alice Bergholtz, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Exchange of views with members of the Assembly

**This document is the convocation to the meeting
for the members of the Standing Committee**

Copy for information to the Secretaries of delegations and political groups

“The Council of Europe as a pioneer of human rights protection: the new generation of rights”

Interactive panel discussion moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of:

- Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland
- Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly
- Ms Ilze Brands Kehris, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights
- Ms Nathalie Smuha, Researcher and Assistant Lecturer, Institute for European Law, KU Leuven, expert on Artificial Intelligence
- Ms Tinna Hallgrímsdóttir, youth representative in the Icelandic Climate Council

Exchange of views with members of the Assembly

Statement by Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition

Concluding remarks by Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, and Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly

6. **Other business**

7. **Next meeting**

Riga, 26 May 2023



A Democracy Fit for the Future

Monday 15 May 2023, 10.00-11.30
Veröld – The House of Vigdís, University of Iceland

Round table organised in the context of the extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

In these turbulent times, European states need to stand together to safeguard democratic culture, stability, and security in the continent. It is vital that we work together to reinforce and renew European democracy and create a future in which human rights and the rule of law flourish. How to respond to authoritarian regimes and attacks on the pillars of our democratic institutions? What can be done to counter democratic backsliding and its negative consequences? How can we build trust in the democratic system? How can we enhance democratic culture, increase inclusivity, and expand civic spaces?

Join us for a discussion on a democracy fit for the future!

Programme

Welcome Remarks by Guðbjörg Linda Rafnsdóttir, Pro-Rector of the University of Iceland

Panel Discussion moderated by Steinunn Gestsdóttir, Pro-Rector of Academic Affairs and Development at the University of Iceland

Old and new challenges to democracy

Video message by **Sviatlana Tsikhanovskaya**, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition

Alexander Shlyk, Special Representative for Elections of Sviatlana Tsikhanovskaya

Mariia Mezentseva, Chairperson of the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Jón Ólafsson, Professor of Cultural and Russian Studies, University of Iceland

Exchange of views

Addressing the root causes of democratic backsliding

Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Lilja Dögg Alfreðsdóttir, Minister of Culture and Business Affairs

Daniel E. Arnarsson, Director of the National Queer Association (Samtökin '78)

Isabel Alejandra Diaz, Iceland's UN Youth Representative for Education, Science, and Culture

Exchange of views

Conclusions



ALÞJÓÐAMÁLASTOFNUN
HAGKOLI ÍSLANDS

Appendix III – Draft agenda of the Standing Committee (Riga, 26 May 2023)



AS/Per (2023) OJ 03 rev2
25 May 2023

Standing Committee

Revised draft agenda

of the meeting to be held

in Riga on Friday 26 May 2023 from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 14:30 to 16:30

(Venue: The Small Guild / Mazā Ģilde, Amatu Street 5, Riga, Latvia)

1. Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly
2. Welcome address by Mr Edvards Smiltēns, Speaker of the Saeima
3. Exchange of views with Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia
CM/Inf (2023) 10
4. Examination of new credentials
Doc. 15775
5. Modifications in the composition of committees
Commissions (2023) 05
Commissions (2023) 05 Add.
6. (Possibly) Requests for a current affairs debate (under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure)
 - The follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit
 - Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics
7. Agenda
AS/Per (2023) OJ 03 rev2
Adoption of the revised draft agenda
8. Third part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (19-23 June 2023)
AS/Bur (2023) 25 rev
Consideration of the draft agenda

**This document is the convocation to the meeting
for the members of the Standing Committee**
Copy for information to the Secretaries of delegations and political groups

9. References to committees

AS/Per (2023) 09

Consideration of the proposals submitted by the Bureau of the Assembly

10. (Possibly) Current affairs debate

The follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit

[Reykjavik Declaration](#)

Statement by Ms Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights

Consideration of a draft declaration for adoption

AS/Per (2023) 10

11. Observation of elections

Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (2 April 2023)

[Doc. 15774](#)

*Chairperson of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL)*

At 14:30

12. Exchange of views with Mr Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank

13. (Possibly) Current affairs debate

Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics

Statement by Mr Kaspars Cipruss, Secretary General of the Latvian Basketball Federation

14. Other business

15. Next meeting

Vaduz (Liechtenstein), 28 November 2023

Appendix IV – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Montenegro (11 June 2023)

Chairperson / Président.e: Mr Reinhold LOPATKA (Austria / Autriche, EPP/CD)

Socialists , Democrats and Greens Group / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)

Ms / Mme Cécile HEMMEN, Luxembourg
Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU, Cyprus / Chypre
Mr / M. Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ, Croatia / Croatie
Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal
Mr / M. Adnan DIBRANI, Sweden / Suède
Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France
Mr / M. André VALLINI, France
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye
Mr / M. Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine*
Ms / Mme Daniela OTEŞANU, Romania / Roumanie

Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)

Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC*, Romania, Roumanie
Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche
Mr / M. Joe O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande
Mr / M. Aleksander POČIEJ, Poland / Pologne
Ms / Mme Jorida TABAKU, Albania / Albanie

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) / Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe (ADLE)

Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France
Ms / Mme Fiona O'LOUGHLIN, Ireland / Irlande
Mr / M. Eerik-Niiles KROSS, Estonia / Estonie
Mr / M. Andrii LOPUSHANSKYI, Ukraine

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France
Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN, Switzerland / Suisse
Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie
Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie
Ms / Mme Ms Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA, Ukraine
Ms / Mme Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie

European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance (EC-DA) / Groupe des Conservateurs européens et Alliance démocratique (CE-AD)

Mr / M. Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne
Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine
Mr / M. José Maria SANCHEZ GARCIA, Spain / Espagne

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)

Ms / Mme Nina KASIMATI, Greece / Grèce

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Andrej HUNKO, Germany / Allemagne

Co-rapporteur.e.s AS/MON (ex officio)

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse
Mr / M. Nicos TORNARITIS, Cyprus / Chypre

Appendix V – References and transmissions to committees

1. The need to designate the Russian “Wagner Group” as a terrorist organisation

[Doc. 15720](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Markus Wiechel and other members of the Assembly

Transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*

2. Strengthening the protection of biodiversity in Europe through sustainable and fair financing of the Bern Convention

[Doc. 15727](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Liliana Tanguy and other members of the Assembly

Transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for consultation*

3. Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine

[Doc. 15728](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Mariia Mezentseva and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for information*

4. Promoting universal health coverage

[Doc. 15729](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

5. Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine

[Doc. 15732](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Lulzim Basha and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”*

6. Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons

[Doc. 15735](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

7. Call for a change on rules relating to gender quota

[Doc. 15749](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Nicole Höchst and other members of the Assembly

Transmission to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Modification of various provisions of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure”* and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for information*

8. Protecting human rights in and through sport: obligations and shared responsibilities

[Doc. 15750](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kim Valentin and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

9. Investigation into the illegal surveillance of foreign leaders, political opponents and activists in Poland

Doc. 15751

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Krzysztof Śmiszek and other members of the Assembly

Transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on "Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance"* and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information*

10. Budgets and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027
Terms of reference of the committee

Reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

11. Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2024-2025
Terms of reference of the committee

Reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

B. REPLY AFTER CONSULTATION

1. The foreseeable wealth gap in the automated future

Doc. 15701

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Björn Leví Gunnarsson and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for taking into account within the framework of the preparation of its report on "Safeguarding future rights for future generations"*

Appendix VI- Declaration on The Reykjavik Summit: a strong message of unity, common purpose and unwavering resolve to be followed up by action

1. Meeting today in Riga as the Standing Committee, the Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the Reykjavik Declaration “United around our values” adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the 4th Council of Europe Summit (Reykjavik, 16 - 17 May 2023), as a strong message of unity, common purpose and unwavering resolve. The Declaration reflects the key concerns and proposals set out in Assembly recommendation 2245 (2023) “The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe – United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges”.
2. With the Reykjavik Declaration, the Heads of State and Government have provided a new direction for the Council of Europe in the years to come. As a statutory organ of the Council of Europe, the Assembly stands ready to translate the Summit vision into concrete results, through its parliamentary deliberations, its monitoring procedure, its inter-parliamentary co-operation activities and networks, and its interaction with the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General.
3. Standing with Ukraine for as long as it takes, the Assembly will spare no effort to support the reconstruction and democratic resilience of Ukraine, being convinced that well-functioning democratic institutions, respect for the rule of law and compliance with democratic standards together with stronger European integration are the best guarantees for the democratic security of Ukraine and Europe.
4. Recalling that there cannot be lasting peace without accountability, the Assembly welcomes the establishment of an Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine, as a first component of a future international compensation mechanism, and encourages other countries to add their names to those of the 45 member and observer states, and the European Union, which have already joined it or declared their intention to do so.
5. At the same time, the Assembly will resolutely pursue its efforts to ensure that the political and military leadership of the Russian Federation is held to account for its war of aggression against Ukraine, supporting the urgent establishment of a special tribunal for the crime of aggression and calling for the Council of Europe to be a part of relevant consultations and negotiations, providing its expert and technical support. It calls for justice for the victims of war crimes, human rights and humanitarian law violations and for the creation of viable mechanisms to ensure the return of abducted persons, including children, back home.
6. Following up the Reykjavik Declaration, the Assembly will strive to preserve the role of the Council of Europe as a beacon of human rights protection, by promoting compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights, protecting the authority of the Court, and ensuring the swift and satisfactory execution of its judgements; and by promoting the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights without any further delay.
7. Welcoming the Reykjavik Process, and reaffirming once more its belief that the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a fundamental human right which should be enshrined in domestic and international law, the Assembly will contribute actively to the standard-setting work of the Council of Europe in the environmental field. It will also continue to support the Organisation’s work to shape human rights protection in the digital age and to address other emerging societal challenges from a human rights perspective.
8. Convinced of the urgent need to prevent and resist democratic backsliding, the Assembly will continue to support member states in tackling its root causes, placing greater emphasis on promoting equality and protecting social rights. It will endorse, promote and further develop the Reykjavik Principles of Democracy. The Assembly will strengthen its initiatives to prevent and counter foreign interference with democratic processes, to enhance the integrity of elections, and to promote media freedom and freedom of expression. It will also step up its engagement with civil society and mainstream a youth perspective in its work, as well as continue promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.
9. As the body representing the national parliaments of all member States, the Assembly stands ready to engage in the Council of Europe High-level Dialogue with member States and partners on the Reykjavik Principles of Democracy. It will also play its part beyond Council of Europe membership, strengthening relations with parliamentary bodies and other international organisations, further consolidating dialogue and co-operation

with Belarusian democratic forces and civil society, and identifying channels and means to strengthen dialogue with Russian democratic forces and civil society who share Council of Europe values.

10. The Assembly calls on all its members, representing national parliaments of the 46 member States, to commit to ensuring that the Reykjavik Declaration finds its expression in action at the national level, through holding governments to account on the commitments made at the Summit, supporting the necessary legislative changes and ratifications, and ensuring and mobilizing the level of budgetary resources commensurate with the mandate and tasks given to the Organisation in Reykjavik.

11. Finally, the Assembly expresses its appreciation for the climate of constructive dialogue with which it co-operated with the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General and other Council of Europe bodies in the lead-up to the Summit and looks forward to pursuing this approach in its follow-up, including through the Joint Committee. It also supports holding regular Summits of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe to provide overarching direction and political momentum to the Organisation.

Appendix VII – Draft agenda of the third part session (19-23 June 2023)



Doc. 15779 prov1
08 June 2023

Third part of the 2023 Ordinary Session (19-23 June 2023)

Draft agenda¹

The plenary sittings will be held in the European Parliament Hemicycle.

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 25 May 2023.



Monday 19 June 2023

Sitting No. 15 (14:30-17:30)

1. Opening of the part-session

- 1.1. Statement by the President
- 1.2. Examination of credentials
- 1.3. Changes in the membership of committees
- 1.4. Request(s) for current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure
 - 1.4.1. Urgent procedure debate: "Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor"
 - 1.4.2. Urgent procedure debate: "Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"
 - 1.4.3. Urgent procedure debate: "War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?"
- 1.5. Adoption of the agenda
- 1.6. Approval of the minutes of the Standing Committee (Reykjavík, 15 May 2023, and Riga, 26 May 2023)

2. Debate

- 2.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee
 - Presentation by:
 - o Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)
- 2.2. Observation of the parliamentary and presidential elections in Türkiye (14 and 28 May 2023)
 - Presentation by:
 - o Mr Frank SCHWABE (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)
 - List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 12:00)

3. Question time (16:00-16:30)

- 3.1. Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 - Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 12:00)

4. Address (16:30-17:30)

- 4.1. Mr Péter SZIJJÁRTÓ, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary
 - Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 12:00)

Tuesday 20 June 2023

Sitting No. 16 (14:15-20:00)

5. Ceremony² (14:15-14:30)

6. Address (14:30-15:30)

6.1. Communication from the Committee of Ministers

- Presentation by:
 - o Mr Edgars RINKĒVIČS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and Chair of the Committee of Ministers
- Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 16:30)
- ⊕ Written questions (deadline for tabling: Monday 12 June, 14:30)

7. Debate

7.1. Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile

- Presentation by:
 - o Mr Paul GALLES (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15783)
- Statement by:
 - o Ms Sviatlana TSIKHANOUSKAYA, Leader of the Belarusian democratic opposition
- List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 16:30)
- ⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 16 June, 14:30)
- ⚖ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15783)

8. Debate

8.1. Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights

- Presentation by:
 - o Sir Christopher CHOPE (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15787)
- List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 16:30)
- ⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 16 June, 14:30)
- ⚖ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15787)

9. Debate

9.1. Public health emergency: the need for a holistic approach to multilateralism and health care

- Presentation by:
 - o Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE (Türkiye, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15778)
- List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 16:30)
- ⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 16 June, 14:30)
- ⚖ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15778)

2. Performance of the Volny Chor.

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Sitting No. 17 (14:30-20:00)

10. Address (14:30-15:30)

10.1. Her Excellency Ms Nataša PIRC MUSAR, President of Slovenia

📅 Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 20 June, 19:00)

11. Joint debate

11.1. Budgets and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Ingjerd SCHOU (Norway, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pro (Doc. 15780)

11.2. Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2024-2025

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Ingjerd SCHOU (Norway, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pro (Doc. 15781)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 20 June, 19:00)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 19 June, 14:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft opinion (Doc. 15780)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15781)

12. Joint debate

12.1. Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ (Croatia, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15785)

12.2. Social inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons through sport

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Nigar ARPADARAI (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15786)

12.3. Health and social protection of undocumented workers or those in an irregular situation

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Ada MARRA (Switzerland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15784)
- o Ms Arusyak JULHAKYAN (Armenia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Mig (Doc. ...)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 20 June, 19:00)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 19 June, 14:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15785)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15786)

🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15784)

13. Debate

13.1. UK reform of its human rights legislation: consequences for domestic and European Human Rights protection

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Kamal JAFAROV (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15782)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 20 June, 19:00)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 19 June, 14:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15782)

Thursday 22 June 2023

Sitting No. 18 (16:00-20:00)

14. [Possibly] Joint Debate under urgent procedure

- 14.1. Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine
- 14.2. War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?

15. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure

- 15.1. Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor

Friday 23 June 2023

Sitting No. 19 (10:00-13:00)

16. Debate

16.1. Closing the digital divide: promoting equal access to digital technologies

Presentation by:

- o Ms Edite ESTRELA (Portugal, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 15776)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 22 June, 19:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 21 June, 10:00)

Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15776)

17. [Possibly] Current affairs debate

18. Progress report (continued)

- 18.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (continued)

19. Closure of the part-session

Appendix VIII – Hearings and exchanges of views open to the public



June plenary session 2023 (19 – 23 June) Committee and network hearings and other events open to the public

Tuesday 20 June 2023

<p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p> <p>09h30-10h30 Room 8</p>	<p>Exchange of views on <i>The right to freedom of information: ensuring access to historical documents</i>, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Boriss Cilevičs, former Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
<p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p>10h30-11h30 Room 9</p>	<p>Dialogue with Belarusian democratic forces</p> <p>Hearing in the context of the preparation of the report on <i>Call for a national political reform process in Belarus</i> (rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statement by Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition <p>Hearing with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Ivan Kravtsov, Executive Secretary, member of the Coordination Council, Razam 'Together' Party - Mr Dmitry Kuchuk, Chairperson, Belarusian Green Party - Mr Anatol Liabedzka, Adviser to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on constitutional reform and parliamentary co-operation, United Civil (Civic) Party <p>In the presence of Mme Violaine Billette de Villemeur, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Belarus</p>
<p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p>11h30-12h30 Room 9</p>	<p>The challenge of far-right ideology to democracy and human rights in Europe</p> <p>Hearing in the context of the preparation of a report by Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA) with the participation of:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Nicos Alivizatos (Greece), Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)
<p>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</p> <p>11h45-12h30 Room 6</p>	<p>Exchange of views on <i>Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers</i>, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE) with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarah Mann, Director, Friends, Families and Travellers, United Kingdom.
<p>Monitoring Committee</p> <p>and</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p> <p>11h00-12h30 Room 10</p>	<p>Joint hearing on <i>SLAPPs as a threat to media pluralism and measures implemented to counteract them</i> with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Pier Luigi Parcu, Director, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, European University Institute, Florence, Italy - NN, Information Society, Directorate General on Human Rights and Rule of Law - Mr Stefan Schennach, rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on “Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society”
<p>Women@PACE group</p> <p>12h45-13h45 Room 11</p>	<p>Exchange of views with Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition, on women’s political participation</p>
Wednesday 21 June 2023	
<p>Monitoring Committee</p> <p>and</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p>10h30-11h30 Room 9</p>	<p>Joint hearing on <i>the financing of political parties</i> with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Julia Cagé, Associate Professor of Economics, Sciences Po Paris (online) - Mr Nicos Alivizatos (Greece), Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) - Ms Sophie Meudal-Leenders, Senior Legal Adviser, Secretariat of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)
<p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p>and</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p> <p>11h30-12h30 Room 9</p>	<p>Joint meeting Follow-up to Assembly Resolutions 2433 (2022) and 2473 (2022)</p> <p>Hearing on <i>issues confronting Russians in exile</i>, with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Gennady Gudkov, Deputy of the State Duma of 3, 4, 5, and 6 convocations; Deputy Chairman of the Security Committee (2001-2012); Leader of the People's Party of

	<p>Russia (2003-2008); Chairman of the NGO "For Free Russia"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Karinna Moskalkenko, Russian lawyer; founder of the Centre de la Protection Internationale - Ms Ekaterina Shulman, Russian political scientist; publicist - Mr Daria Belova, Chairman of the initiative to help refugees "inTransit"; representative of the Ark (Kovcheg) <p>Also present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Marila Novikova, human rights lawyer; Secretary of the Russian Democratic Club in France - Ms Elena Colombo, Co-founder of the Association for assistance to Russian asylum seekers in France (Russie-Asile) - Mr Alexey Obolenets, lawyer and human rights defender
Thursday 22 June 2023	
<p>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</p> <p>9h30-10h30 Room 7</p>	<p>Joint hearing with the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe on <i>Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe</i>, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director, LGL, Lithuania - Ms Florina Presadă, Executive Director, Accept Romania - Ms Claire Vandendriessche, Spokesperson, Acceptess-T, France
<p>Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p>9h30-10h30 Room 11</p>	<p>Exchange of views on <i>Recent developments in the Middle East</i>, with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Merav Ben Ari, Chairperson of the Observer delegation of Israel to the Parliamentary Assembly - Mr Bismut Boaz, member of the Observer delegation of Israel to the Parliamentary Assembly - Mr Bernard Sabella, Chairperson, Palestinian partner for democracy delegation
<p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p> <p>11h00-12h30 Room 6</p>	<p>Hearing on <i>Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace</i>, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), and <i>Online education and special education needs of children with disabilities and learning difficulties</i>, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Pavlo Sushko (Ukraine, EC/DA), with the participation of:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Sergii Gorbachov, Education Ombudsman, Ukraine (in person) - Mr Viktor Pendalchuk, Principal of Kakhovka's secondary school №1, Kherson region, Ukraine (online) - Ms Lesia Prokhorenko, Director of Mykola Yarmachenko Institute for Special Pedagogy and Psychology, NAPS of Ukraine (online) - Ms Oksana Yakymiv, Director of the Vygoda Special School of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Council, Ukraine (online)
<p>Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment (Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development)</p> <p>12h45-13h45 Room 8</p>	<p>Exchange of views with Mr Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders, elected under the Aarhus Convention</p>