

SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2024) CB 12

2 December 2024

To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Luxembourg on 28 November 2024

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday, 28 November 2024, in Luxembourg, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, 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 of the Council of Europe;
- **Human Rights in Motion Prize:** took note of the information contained in the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat, under the instructions of the President of the Assembly, and decided to:
 - establish the Human Rights in Motion Prize, to be awarded quarterly, in cooperation with four international documentary film festivals, to the director of the best documentary film promoting the "human rights or the fight for democratic values";
 - launch a call for artists or artistic organisations to create, pro bono, a plaque to accompany the award ceremony;took note that the Prize will be officially launched during the meeting of the Standing Committee on 29 November 2024;
- **Meeting of the Standing Committee (Luxembourg, 29 November 2024):**
 - *Requests for current affairs debates:*
 - took note of the request by the Chairperson of the delegation of Luxembourg to hold a current affairs debate on *Intensification of repressions in Azerbaijan: undermining democratic freedoms and parliamentary rights*, decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate, to modify the title in *Intensification of repressions in Azerbaijan: the situation of political prisoners, threats to democratic freedoms and parliamentary rights*, and appointed Mr Gusty Graas (Luxembourg, ALDE) as the first speaker;
 - took note of the request by the chairpersons of the five political groups to hold a current affairs debate on *Foreign interference: a threat to democracy*, decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate, and appointed Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) as the first speaker;
 - updated the draft agenda;
- **First part-session of 2025 (Strasbourg, 27-31 January):** drew up the preliminary draft agenda for the first part-session of 2025;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;

- **Election observation:**
 - *Republic of Moldova: presidential election (20 October and 3 November 2024) and constitutional referendum (20 October 2024):* approved the election observation report, with a view to a debate at the Standing Committee on the following day;
 - *Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (9 June and 27 October 2024):* approved the election observation report, with a view to a debate at the Standing Committee on the following day;
 - *Georgia: parliamentary elections (26 October 2024):* approved the election observation report, with a view to a debate at the 2025 January part-session;
 - *Assembly of Kosovo*: elections (9 February 2025):* decided to observe these elections and set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC: 6; EPP/CD: 6; EC/DA: 4; ALDE: 3; UEL: 1); and authorised a pre-electoral mission;
- **Request for special guest status by the Assembly of Kosovo*:** took note of the letter by the President of the Assembly of Kosovo* and, in accordance with Rule 62.3 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, transmitted the request to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for consultation;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly on the composition of the Selection Panel and of the calendar of the 2025 edition; decided to:
 - exceptionally extend the mandate of one of the members appointed by the Bureau and of one of the members appointed by the Czech partners for one year each and to subsequently extend the current mandate of Ms Anne Brasseur for one year, bringing the end of her mandate to 31 May 2026; and
 - invited Bureau members to propose candidatures for the vacant seat in the Selection Panel for the subsequent appointment of a member of the Panel by the Bureau. The names and CVs of candidates together with justification of fulfilment of required condition ("recognised moral standing in the field of human rights") should be submitted to the Secretary General of the Assembly no later than 15 January 2025, in view of the Bureau taking a decision on the appointment during the 2025 January part-session;
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment:**
 - took note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and approved the modification of the regulations of the Prize concerning the deadline for reception of candidatures (Appendix 2);
 - took note of the calendar of the 2025 edition and of the launch of the 2025 edition of the Prize on 29 November 2024;
- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Strasbourg, 20-21 March 2025):** took note of the information provided by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2024:** appointed Ms Ingjerd Schie Schou (Norway, EPP/CD) as a representative of the Assembly to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2025:** approved the revised proposals contained in the document (Appendix 3);
- **Dates and places of next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Friday, 13 December 2024, 9am, Paris;
 - Monday, 27 January 2025, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session);
 - Friday, 31 January 2025, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session);
 - Wednesday, 19 March 2025, 2.30pm, Strasbourg.

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* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

Appendix 1 – References and transmissions to committees

A. References to committees

- *Media freedom in sport*, [Doc. 16036](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*;
- *Improving the selection/election procedure of CPT members*, [Doc. 16038](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;
- *Violations of media freedom and the right to information in Poland*, [Doc. 16051](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland”*;
- *Situation in Venezuela and support for Venezuelans living in exile in Council of Europe member States*, [Doc. 16052](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*;
- *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*, [Doc. 16055](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;
- *Frontline States: the role of the Council of Europe in implementing the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum*, [Doc. 16056](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*.

B. Extension of a reference

- *The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by the Netherlands*, Monitoring Committee decision, Reference 4569 of 19 March 2021 (extended on 14 October 2022, 9 October 2023 and 22 January 2024) – validity: 19 March 2025: extension until 19 March 2026.

Appendix 2 – Regulations for the Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment

Article 1 – The Prize

The Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment will be awarded by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe every year in order to reward outstanding initiatives promoting the empowerment of women in all their diversity, with a broad remit ranging from achievements in gender equality, in equal access to participation and decision making, to championing women's opportunities and helping them to take their place in society, as well as action to encourage inclusive policies and practice.

Article 2 – Award

The Prize will consist of a sum of 60 000 euros to finance action in the field that is conducted or supported by the Prize-winner and a diploma.

Article 3 – Eligibility

Individuals or civil society groups, including national or international non-governmental organisations, associations and private companies may be nominated for the Prize. Current members of the Parliamentary Assembly and deceased individuals will not be eligible.

Article 4 – Nominations

4.1. Nominations for the Prize must reach the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly **in March, at a date to be set before 15 February** each year. They will be signed by at least five sponsors, other than the nominee, on the special form appended to these Regulations.

4.2. Nominations will provide details of the nominee's action to promote women's empowerment and specify the reasons why the nominee's action can be considered to be outstanding. All relevant supporting documents will be provided.

4.3. Nominations may be submitted in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe.

Article 5 – Selection Panel

5.1. The Selection Panel, chaired by the President of the Assembly or a person designated by her or him, will be composed of six independent members with recognised standing in the field of women's empowerment.

5.2. Three members of the Selection Panel will be nominated by the Bureau of the Assembly upon the proposal of the Assembly's Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and three nominated by the Government of Iceland.

5.3. Current members of the Assembly cannot be members of the Selection Panel. They are appointed for a two-year period, renewable twice.

Article 6 – Decision on the Prize-winner

6.1. The Selection Panel will decide on any conflict of interest concerning its members.

6.2. Once eligibility of the applications has been verified, a meeting of the Selection Panel will be held in spring in Reykjavík or in Strasbourg, on a rotation basis, to examine the candidacies and decide on a shortlist of three nominees to be submitted, for information, to the Bureau of the Assembly. The names of these nominees will subsequently be made public by the President of the Assembly.

6.3. In a second sitting on the Sunday preceding the Assembly's June part-session, the Selection Panel will meet in Strasbourg to decide on the winner of the Prize. This decision will be taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

Article 7 – Award ceremony

7.1. The name of the Prize-winner will be announced by the President of the Assembly during a special ceremony to be held at the opening of the Assembly's June part-session.

Appendix 3 – Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2025

Monday 27 January, 8 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 31 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Wednesday 19 March, 2.30pm, Strasbourg	Bureau
Monday 7 April, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 11 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 22 May, 3 pm, Malta	Bureau
Friday 23 May, 9 am, Malta	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 23 June, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 27 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 5 September, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 29 September, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 3 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 20 November, 3 pm, Chişinău	Bureau
Friday 21 November, 9.30 am, Chişinău	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Friday 12 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau