

SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2024) CB 13

17 December 2024

## To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

### Synopsis

#### of the meeting held in Paris on 13 December 2024

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday, 13 December 2024, in Paris, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- observed a minute's silence in the memory of Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe from 2004 to 2009;
- **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;
- **Minutes:** decided to declassify the minutes of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau on the situation of the children of Ukraine, held in Geneva on 13 June 2024;
- **Follow-up to the Standing Committee meeting (Luxembourg, 29 November 2024):** approved the follow-up proposals presented by the Secretary General of the Assembly and decided to refer the follow-up to Resolution 2579 (2024) on *Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement* to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on *Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure*;
- **First part-session of 2025 (Strasbourg, 27-31 January):** updated 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 Assembly;
- **Election observation:**
  - *Assembly of Kosovo\*: elections (9 February 2025):* approved the list of members of the *ad hoc* committee to observe these elections and appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) as its Chairperson (Appendix 2);
  - *Schedule of the elections in 2025:* took note of the calendar;
- **Election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Assembly and:
  - decided that the forthcoming election should follow the pre-Covid-19 pandemic timetable, with an election during the 2025 October part-session;
  - therefore decided to exceptionally shorten the mandate of the forthcoming Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly by one month, subject to agreement with the Committee of Ministers to be reached within the Joint Committee;

\* 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.

- approved the timetable for the election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly (Appendix 3);
- asked the President of the Parliamentary Assembly to transmit to the Committee of Ministers the timetable regarding the procedure in the Assembly and the decision of the Bureau regarding the duration of the mandate of the forthcoming Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the 2025 financial year:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Apportionment of the allocation to political groups for 2025:** approved the proposals contained in the document;
- **Parliamentary co-operation and electoral activities - work plan 2025:** took note of the work plan for 2025;
- **Follow-up to a Bureau decision - summaries of PACE adopted texts through the use of AI:** took note of the information provided;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
  - *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:* took note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Committee and decided to set up an *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau, composed of 8 members (AS/Pol: 3, AS/Jur: 2; AS/Soc:2 and AS/Cult:1), to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, to be held on 5-7 February 2025 in Paris;
  - *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:* took note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Committee and decided to set up an *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau to participate in the conference on the follow-up to the Resolution 2569 (2024) *Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – A call to clarify their fate* to be held in Strasbourg by July 2025 (date tbc);
- **Honorary President:** decided to grant the title of Honorary President to Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly from 2020 to 2022;
- **Other business:** took note that the President will ask the Venice Commission for an urgent opinion on the conditions and the legal standards under which a constitutional court can invalidate elections;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised:
  - the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 69) of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to meet in New York, United States, in March 2025 (dates tbc);
  - the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) to meet in Riga on 15-16 May 2025;
  - the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media to meet in Oslo or Trondheim, Norway, on 3 and 4 June 2025;
- **Dates and places of next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
  - 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.

Isild Heurtin

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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

- *Safeguarding the rule of law in Tunisia*, [Doc. 16060](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for consultation*;
- *The use of artificial intelligence in public decision-making processes and its impact on human rights*, [Doc. 16061](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence”* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*;
- *Strengthening freedom of expression: an imperative for the consolidation and development of democratic societies*, [Doc. 16062](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*;
- *The situation of Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities*, [Doc. 16063](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*;
- *Ensuring sustainable food security in times of crisis: strengthening resilience and access to food*, [Doc. 16064](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;
- Bureau decision, follow-up to Resolution 2579 (2024) on *Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement*: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on *Modification of various provisions of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure*.

### B. Extension of references

- *Olympic movement and peacekeeping: is sport neutrality serving sport values?* (former title: Excluding the athletes and officials of the Russian Federation and Belarus from participating in the international Olympic movement), [Doc. 15721](#), motion for a resolution, reference 4716 of 2 March 2023 – validity: 2 March 2025: extension until 31 March 2025;
- *Legal aspects of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights*, [Doc. 15014](#), motion for a resolution, reference 4488 of 27 January 2020 (extended on 7 May 2020, 1 February 2021, 25 November 2022, 22 January 2024 and 24 May 2024) – validity: 31 December 2024: extension until 30 June 2025;
- *Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan*, [Doc. 15521](#), motion for a resolution, reference 4659 of 24 June 2022 (extended on 24 May 2024) – validity: 31 December 2024: extension until 31 December 2025;
- *Promoting universal health coverage*, [Doc. 15729](#), motion for a resolution, Reference 4734 of 26 May 2023 – validity: 26 May 2025: extension until 26 November 2025.

**Appendix 2 – List of members of the *ad hoc* committee to observe the elections in the Assembly of Kosovo\***

**Chairperson / Président.e** : Ms / Mme Petra BAYR, Austria / Autriche

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

Ms / Mme Petra BAYR, Austria / Autriche \*\*  
Mr / M. Christophe CHAILLOU, France  
Mr / M. Titus CORLĂȚEAN, Romania / Roumanie  
Mr / M. Yves CRUCHTEN, Luxembourg  
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye  
Ms / Mme Annick LAMBRECHT, Belgium / Belgique

**Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s**

Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Norway / Norvège  
Ms / Mme Cat ECCLES, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni \*\*\*\*  
Mr / M. Cerni ESCALE CABRE, Andorra / Andorre \*\*\*  
Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal  
Lord George FOULKES, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni \*\*\*  
Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse \*\*\*  
Mr / M. Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI, San Marino / Saint-Marin  
Ms / Mme Biserka KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJEVSKA, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord  
Ms / Mme Miapetra KUMPULA-NATRI, Finland / Finlande \*\*\*  
Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France  
Ms / Mme Anna-Kristiina MIKKONEN, Finland / Finlande  
Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche \*\*\*  
Mr / M. John SLINGER, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni \*\*\*\*  
Ms / Mme Céline THIÉBAULT-MARTINEZ, France \*\*\*\*

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

Ms / Mme Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER, Austria / Autriche \*\*  
Mr / M. Pablo HISPÁN, Spain / Espagne \*\*\*  
Mr / M. Jan Filip LIBICKI, Poland / Pologne \*\*\*  
Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚĂGĂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie  
Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce  
Ms / Mme Jorida TABAKU, Albania / Albanie

**Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s**

Mr / M. Christian BUCHMANN, Austria / Autriche  
Mr / M. Chris SAID, Malta / Malte \*\*\*

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

Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine\*\*

ZZ  
ZZ  
ZZ

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

Mr / M. Nikolla CAMAJ, Montenegro / Monténégro  
Mr / M. Claude KERN, France  
Ms / Mme Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie\*\*

**Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s**

Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye  
Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France

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

Ms / Mme Nina KASIMATI, Greece / Grèce \*\*

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\*\* Pre-electoral mission / mission prélectorale

\*\*\* Awaiting the non-conflict of interest declaration / en attente de la déclaration de non-conflit d'intérêt

\*\*\*\* Awaiting PACE 2024 declaration of interest / en attente de la déclaration d'intérêt 2024 de l'APCE

**Appendix 3 – Timetable for the election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly**

2025 June part-session (23-27 June)	Consultation in the Joint Committee
5 September 2025	Examination by the Bureau of the proposals of candidates submitted by the Committee of Ministers to the Assembly with, possibly, interviews of candidates
2025 October part-session (30 September)	Election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly by the Assembly