



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur (2025) CB 01

3 February 2025

To the members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 27-30 January 2025

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 27 to 30 January 2025:

- on **Monday 27 January 2025 at 2pm**, with Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, ECPA), oldest member present, then with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, ECPA) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**
 - re-elected, by acclamation, Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, ECPA) Chairperson,
 - re-elected, by acclamation, Ms Lesia Vasylenko (Ukraine, ALDE) 1st Vice-Chairperson,
 - re-elected, by acclamation, Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) 2nd Vice-Chairperson,
 - elected, by acclamation, Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC) 3rd Vice-Chairperson;
 - **Constitution of Sub-Committees:** reconstituted the Committee's current three sub-committees for 2025, namely:
 - i. Sub-Committee on Human Rights
 - ii. Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights
 - iii. Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the composition as in the attached appendix;¹
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: statutory opinion on a draft convention for the protection of the profession of lawyer** (*Rapporteur: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan, Armenia, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft opinion;
 - **Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards:** adopted a draft motion for a resolution and agreed to table it on behalf of the Committee;
- on **Tuesday 28 January 2025 at 2pm**, as regards:
 - **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:** agreed to propose to the Bureau that the following members and substitutes be appointed to represent the Committee at meetings of the following bodies in 2025 in the framework of the Assembly's institutional representation:

European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission")
Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC) - Member
Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/DC) - Substitute

¹ Subsequent proposals received later than 29 January 2025 are also included in the appendix.

Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission)

Mr Pablo Hispán (Espagne, EPP/CD) – Member

Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) – Substitute

Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)

Ms Agnes Sirkka Prammer (Austria, SOC) – Member

Ms Arusyak Julhakyan (Armenia, PPE/DC) – Substitute

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Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC) – Member

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- **Addressing risks to human rights and the rule of law posed by mercenaries and private military companies: a call for comprehensive regulation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Orlando, Italy, SOC*): took note that no amendments had been tabled;
- **Increasing members' active participation in and contribution to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly and its committees:** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC – Rapporteur for the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*): took note of the letter from the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs and asked members to provide input for a possible reply;
- **Situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): considered an information note prepared by the General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers in Europe and agreed to declassify it;
- **Gender equality in the functioning of the Assembly:** considered a memorandum of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination;
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs :**
 - *Fighting back against transnational repression:* appointed Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC) and heard from him a declaration of no conflict of interests;
 - *Updating the Venice Commission Rule of Law Checklist: a contribution by the Assembly:* appointed Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC) and heard from her a declaration of no conflict of interests;
 - *Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan:* appointed Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC) and heard from him a declaration of no conflict of interests;
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs for opinion:**
 - *Journalists matter: the need to step up efforts to liberate Ukrainian journalists held in captivity by the Russian Federation* (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE*) : appointed Ms Nadejda Iordanova (Bulgaria, NR) and heard from her a declaration of no conflict of interests;
- **Call for candidates:** called for candidates for the following:
 - Rapporteur on “Improving the selection/election procedure of CPT members”;
 - Rapporteur for opinion on “Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence” (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*);
- **Appointment of a General Rapporteur for political prisoners:** appointed Ms Azadeh Rojhan (Sweden, SOC) and heard from her a declaration of no conflict of interests;

- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network Plenary Meeting, Paris, 5-7 February 2025:** agreed to propose Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE) to participate in the aforementioned ad hoc committee;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the conference on “Envisioning effective public policy to prevent & address cases of missing migrants”, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 23-24 April 2025** (follow-up to the Resolution 2569 (2024) *Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – A call to clarify their fate* to be held in Strasbourg on 23-24 April 2025): asked members to notify the secretariat of their interest;
- **on Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 2pm**, as regards:
 - **Joint hearing with the Monitoring Committee on the implementation of judgments of the ECtHR by Türkiye in preparation of the report on “Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 12th report”** (Rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Yıldırım Tuğrul Türkeş, Chair of the Turkish delegation
Mr Alper Hakkı Yazıcı, Vice Chairman of Human Rights Department of Ministry of Justice;
- **on Thursday 30 January 2025 at 9am**, as regards:
 - **Sub-Committee on Human Rights:** took note of an oral report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held on Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 3pm and endorsed the proposal of the Sub-Committee concerning the list of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the delegation of Croatia. Noted the postponement of the consideration of the list of the delegation of Liechtenstein;
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: statutory opinion on a draft convention for the protection of the profession of lawyer** (Rapporteur: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan, Armenia, EPP/CD): took position on one amendment to the draft opinion;
 - **Legal aspects of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights** (Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Follow-up to the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights held in Geneva on 18-19 November 2024:** heard an oral report by the Chair of the Sub-Committee, Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE);
 - **Youth Rapporteur (Assembly Resolution 2553 “[Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly](#)”):** appointed Ms Saara-Sofia Sirén (Finland, EPP/CD) and heard from her a declaration of no conflict of interest;
 - **Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment:** asked members to notify the secretariat if interested in becoming a member of this Network,
 - **Hearings during the next meeting:** agreed to hold the following hearings with invited experts, subject to the availability of funds and open to the public provided that all experts agree;

“Proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky found in Switzerland must not be returned to the presumed perpetrators” (Rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE);

Follow-up to “Pegasus and similar spyware and secret State surveillance”;
 - **Other business:**
 - **“Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 12th report”** (Rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC): declassified the report on the fact-finding visit to Yerevan held on 11 December 2024;

- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc:** heard reports by the Assembly's representatives on their participation in the following meetings:

81st meeting of the Venice Commission's Council for Democratic Elections, Venice (Italy), 5 December 2024: Mr Pablo Hispán, (Spain, EPP/CD)

141st European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Venice (Italy), 6-7 December 2024: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD)

World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, Geneva, Switzerland, 15-16 January 2025: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC);

- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2025:** made a call for nominations, noted the deadline of 30 April 2025 and that details are available on the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#);

- **Next meetings:** took note of the meetings for 2025 as follows:

- 3 March 2025, Paris Office
- during the Assembly's 2nd part-session of 2025 (7-11 April 2025)
- 13 May 2025, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2025 (23-27 June 2025)
- 8 September 2023, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2025 (29th September – 3 October 2025)
- 10 December 2025, Paris Office (t.b.c.);

- **on Thursday 30 January 2025 at 2pm**, as regards:

- **Ukrainian prisoners of war, journalists and other civilians held in captivity by the Russian Federation:** held a joint hearing with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media with the participation of:

Mr Maksym Butkevych, Human rights defender, officer of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, ex-POW, journalist

Ms Leniie Umerova - recently exchanged Crimean Tatar and civilian hostage (Ukrainian citizen)

Mr Yulian Pylypei, Ukrainian marine, Mariupol defender, 2.5 years in Russian captivity

Ms Nataliia Yashchuk, Senior War Consequences Officer, Center for Civil Liberties, Kyiv;

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting on Tuesday 28 January 2025 at 3pm, with Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC), oldest member present in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Chairperson:** elected Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) Chairperson by acclamation;

Then with Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Vice-Chairperson:** elected Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC) Vice-Chairperson;

- **Next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting on Tuesday 28 January 2025 at 3.10pm, with Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), oldest member present in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Chairperson:** elected Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE) Chairperson by acclamation;

Then with Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Vice-Chairperson:** elected Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
- **Next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting on Tuesday 28 January 2025 at 3.20pm, with Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC) oldest member present in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Chairperson:** elected Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC) Chairperson by acclamation;

Then with Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Vice-Chairperson:** elected Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
- **Next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting on Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 3pm, with Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** considered the list of candidates to the CPT in respect of Croatia. Agreed on an order of preference amongst the candidates to be transmitted to the Committee for endorsement. Noted the postponement of the consideration of the list submitted by the delegation of Liechtenstein;
- **Next meeting:** during the April 2025 part-session.

Günter Schirmer, Guillem Cano-Palomares, George Stafford, Rafał Sokół

cc:

Secretary General of the Assembly
Director and all staff of the Secretariat of the 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

Sub-Committee on Human Rights (27 seats)

List of members

| | <u>Full member/ membre titulaire</u> | | <u>Alternate/remplaçant</u> |
|-----|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Ms MODERT Octavie (Chair/ Présidente) | Luxembourg | Mr CRUCHTEN Yves |
| 2. | Ms NOWICKA Wanda (Vice Chair / Vice-Présidente) | Poland/Pologne | |
| 3. | Mr ANTONIOZZI Alfredo | Italy/Italie | |
| 4. | Ms BAYR Petra | Austria/Autriche | Ms PRAMMER Agnes Sirkka |
| 5. | Mr BITZ Olivier | France | |
| 6. | Baroness BRINTON Sal | United Kingdom/ Royaume-Uni | Baroness CHAKRABARTI Shami |
| 7. | Mr CHAILLOU Christophe | France | |
| 8. | Mr CORLATEAN Titus | Romania/Roumanie | |
| 9. | Ms DECROIX Eva | Czechia /Tchéquie | |
| 10. | Ms DEŠIĆ Edina | Montenegro/Monténégro | |
| 11. | Ms DURENE Véronique | Belgium/Belgique | Mr LACROIX Christophe |
| 12. | Ms EFTHYMIU Anna | Greece/Grèce | Mr MANTZOS Dimitrios |
| 13. | Ms FILIPOVSKI Dubravka | Serbia/ Serbie | |
| 14. | Mr GONCHARENKO Oleksii | Ukraine | |
| 15. | Mr KLEINWAECHTER Norbert | Germany/Allemagne | Mr ABRAHAM Knut |
| 16. | Ms KOSTADINOVSKA STOJCHEVSKA Bisera | North Macedonia/ Macédoine du Nord | |
| 17. | Mr LAMUÀ Marc | Spain/ Espagne | |
| 18. | Mr MIRKOVIĆ Aleksandar | Serbia/Serbie | |
| 19. | Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona | Ireland / Irlande | |
| 20. | Ms ROTH Franziska | Switzerland/Suisse | Mr GERMANN Hannes |
| 21. | Mr SAID Chris | Malta/Malte | |
| 22. | Ms SPINELLI Domenica | Italy/Italie | |
| 23. | Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir | Armenia/Arménie | |
| 24. | Ms YILDEZ Zeynep | Türkiye | Mr KOÇAK Konuralp |
| 25. | Z | | |
| 26. | Z | | |
| 27. | Z | | |

ex officio: Chairperson of AS/Jur : Lord Keen

Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights
(27 seats)

List of members

| | <u>Full member/ membre titulaire</u> | | <u>Alternate/remplaçant</u> |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Mr COTTIER Damien (Chair/ Président) | Switzerland/Suisse | Mr MICHEL Matthias |
| 2. | Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (Vice Chair, Vice-Président) | Armenia/Arménie | Ms JULHAKYAN Arusyak |
| 3. | Ms BASTOS Regina | Portugal | |
| 4. | Mr BOJOVIĆ Dragan | Montenegro/Monténégro | |
| 5. | Mr CRUCHTEN Yves | Luxembourg | |
| 6. | Mr EFSTATHIOU Constantinois | Cyprus/Chypre | |
| 7. | Ms HOYO Belén | Spain/ Espagne | |
| 8. | Ms IORDANOVA, Nadejda | Bulgaria/Bulgarie | |
| 9. | Mr LACROIX Christophe | Belgium/ Belgique | Mr MICHEL Mathieu |
| 10. | Mr MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša | Bosnia and Herzegovina | |
| 11. | Ms MOREL Louise | France | |
| 12. | Mr NICULESCU ȚĂGÂRLAȘ Cristian Augustin | Romania/Roumanie | |
| 13. | Mr O'REILLY Joseph | Ireland/Irlande | |
| 14. | Mr PETRY Christian | Germany/Allemagne | Mr KLEINWAECHTER Norbert |
| 15. | Mr. RAČAN Ivan | Croatia/Croatie | |
| 16. | Mr RICHARDS Jake | United Kingdom/ Royaume-Uni | Mr VAUGHAN Tony |
| 17. | Mr RYLE, Alexander | Denmark/Danemark | Ms REISSMANN Mette |
| 18. | Mr. SPERANZA Roberto | Italy/Italie | |
| 19. | Mr STYLIANIDIS Evripidis | Greece/Grèce | Ms KANELLI Liapna |
| 20. | Ms VELDHOEN Gala | Netherlands/ Pays-Bas | |
| 21. | Ms YILDIZ Zeynep | Türkiye | Ms GÖKÇEN Gökçe |
| 22. | Ms CACHIA Naomi | Malta/Malte | |
| 23. | ZZ | | |
| 24. | ZZ | | |
| 25. | ZZ | | |
| 26. | ZZ | | |
| 27. | ZZ | | |

ex officio: Chairperson of AS/Jur : Lord Richard Keen

Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights
(27 seats)

List of members

Full member/ membre titulaire

Alternate/remplaçant

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|---|----|------------------|
| 1. | Mr | EFSTATHIOU Constantinos(Chair,Président) | Cyprus/Chypre | | |
| 2. | Mr | CORLATEAN Titus (Vice Chair/ Vice-Président) | Romania/Roumanie | Mr | NAGY Szabolcs |
| 3. | Ms | BAYR Petra | Austria/Autriche | Ms | PRAMMER Agnes |
| | | Sirkka | | | |
| 4. | Ms | BÖLÜK Seda Gören | Türkiye | | |
| 5. | Sir | CHOPE Christopher | United Kingdom/ Royaume-Uni | | |
| 6. | Ms | DECROIX Eva | Czechia /Tchéquie | | |
| 7. | Mr | GERMANN, Hannes | Switzerland/Suisse | Mr | COTTIER Damien |
| 8. | Mr | GONCHARENKO Oleksii | Ukraine | | |
| 9. | Mr | GUTIÉRREZ PRIETO Sergio | Spain/ Espagne | | |
| 10. | Ms | JOSSERAND Sylvie | France | | |
| 11. | Ms | JULHAKYAN Arusyak | Armenia/Arménie | | |
| 12. | Mr | KUHLE Konstantin | Germany/Allemagne | Mr | Max LUCKS |
| 13. | Ms | KOSTADINOVSKA STOJCHEVSKA Bisera | North Macedonia/ Macédoine du Nord | | |
| 14. | Mr | LICHERI Ettore Antonio | Italy/Italie | | |
| 15. | Mr | MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša | Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Bosnie-Herzégovine | | |
| 16. | Mr | MIKANADZE Givi (Chair/Président 2024) | Georgie/ Géorgie | | |
| 17. | Mr | MILON Alain | France | Ms | GRÉAUME Michelle |
| 18. | Ms | MODERT Octavie | Luxembourg | | |
| 19. | Ms | O'LOUGHLIN Fiona | Ireland / Irlande | | |
| 20. | Mr. | RAČAN Ivan | Croatia/Croatie | | |
| 21. | Ms | SIREN Saara-Sofia | Finland/ Finlande | | |
| 22. | Mr | STYLIANIDIS Evripidis | Greece/Grèce | Ms | EFTHYMIOU |
| | | Anna | | | |
| 23. | Ms | VAERENBERGH Kristien Van | Belgium/Belgique | Ms | DURENNE |
| | | Véronique | | | |
| 24. | Ms | VELDHOEN Gala | Netherlands/ Pays-Bas | | |
| 25. | Mr | VLASENKO Sergiy | Ukraine | | |
| 26. | Ms | VOGELS Rian | Netherlands/Pay-Bas | | |
| 27. | Z | | | | |

ex officio: Chairperson of AS/Jur : Lord Richard Keen