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8 July 2026

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Work programme

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I. Work Programme

A. Reports/Opinions tabled but not yet debated

B. Reports under preparation

i. Human rights

1. Ensuring better protection of whistle-blowers in Europe

Rapporteur: Ms Anna-Kristiina Mikkonen, Finland, SOC (appointed on 21.05.2024)

- Origin: [Doc. 15919](#), Reference 4801 of 15.04.2024
- Expiry date for adoption: 31.01.2027 (original deadline: 15.04.2026)
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2027 – First part-session (tbc)
- State of work:
 - 10.09.2024: the committee considered an introductory memorandum. It agreed to the rapporteur's request to hold an exchange of views with former Assembly rapporteur on this subject, Mr Sylvain Waserman;
 - 09.12.2024: the committee held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Anna Myers, Executive Director, Whistleblowing International Network, United Kingdom;
 - Ms Vigjilencja Abazi, Assistant Professor of European Law, University of Maastricht;
 - 03-04.04.2025: the rapporteur carried out a fact-finding visit to Brussels;
 - 01.12.2025: the committee heard a statement by the rapporteur, took note that the rapporteur had published a statement, and agreed to hold a hearing with experts jointly with the General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistle-blowers, subject to the availability of funds
 - 23.04.2026: the committee held a hearing with the participation of Mr Amar Benmohamed, whistle-blower.

2. Improving the selection/election procedure of CPT members

Rapporteur: Ms Octavie Modert, Luxembourg, EPP/CD (appointed on 03.03.2025)

- Origin: [Doc.16038](#), Reference 4838 of 29.11.2024
- Expiry date for adoption: 29.11.2026
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2026 – November Standing Committee (tbc)
- State of work:
 - 24.06.2025: the committee considered an introductory memorandum;
 - 01.12.2025: the committee held an exchange of views with Mr Alan Mitchell, President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
 - 22.06.2026: the committee heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views.

3. Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards

Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD (appointed on 13.05.2025)

- Origin: [Doc.16103](#), Reference 4855 of 07.04.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 07.04.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:
 - 26.06.2025: the committee considered an introductory memorandum;
 - 08.09.2025: the committee held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Charles Baubion, Team Leader for Information Integrity and Foreign Interference, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;
 - Mr András Kristóf Kádár, attorney-at-law and Co-chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee; Ms Katarína Batková, Executive Director at VIA IURIS (Slovak Republic) (online);
 - 01.12.2025: the committee considered a preliminary draft report.

4. **Safeguarding human rights in the artificial intelligence-driven public sector**

Rapporteur: Ms Gala Veldhoen, The Netherlands, SOC (appointed on 24.06.2025)

- Origin: [Doc.16148](#), Reference 4874 of 11.04.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 11.04.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:
02.10.2025: the committee considered an introductory memorandum;
01.12.2025: the committee held an exchange of views with Mr Alex Sobel MP and Lord Murray of Blidworth, members of the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the Parliament of the United Kingdom;
27.05.2026: the committee held a hearing with the participation of Mr Mario Hernández Ramos, Chair of the Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies of the Council of Europe (CDNET).

5. **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 13th report**

Rapporteur: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko, Ukraine, EPP/CD (appointed on 24.06.2025)

- Origin: Bureau decision, Reference 4878 of 11.04.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 30.06.2027 (original deadline: 11.04.2027)
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:
30.09.2025: the committee considered an introductory memorandum;
27.05.2026: the committee held a hearing with the participation of Dr Ramute Remezaite, Senior Consultant and Implementation Lead at the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre, Vice Chair of the European Implementation Network.

6. **Justice delayed: the unfinished implementation of the Daphne Caruana Galizia case**

Rapporteur: Baroness Shami Chakrabarti, United Kingdom, SOC (appointed on 01.12.2025)

- Origin: [Doc. 16223](#), Reference 4902 of 29.09.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 29.09.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:
16.03.2026: the committee considered an introductory memorandum, agreed to the rapporteur's request to declassify it and authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Malta, subject to the availability of funds.

7. **European Convention on Human Rights: 75 years and beyond**

Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC (appointed on 01.12.2025)

- Origin: Bureau Decision, Reference 4920 of 21.11.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 21.11.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:
14-15.01.2026: the rapporteur participated in the extraordinary meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held in Strasbourg;
26.01.2026: the committee heard a statement by the rapporteur;
21.04.2026: the committee considered an introductory memorandum;
25.06.2026: the committee held a joint hearing with the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation, with the participation of Mr David Milner, Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division and Secretary to the Steering Committee for Human Rights, CDDH, Council of Europe, Mr Matthieu Birker, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, CDDH, Council of Europe, Mr Matthieu Birker, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Ms Natasa Mavronicola, Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, and Ms Adriana Tidona, Amnesty International, United Kingdom.

8. The enforced disappearance of newborns, infants and children

Rapporteur: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL (appointed on 16.03.2026)

- Origin: [Doc. 16285](#), Reference 4925 of 26.01.2026
- Expiry date for adoption: 26.01.2028
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:
22.06.2026: the committee considered an introductory memorandum.

9. Protecting the freedom of expression of members of parliaments

Rapporteur: Ms Gökçe Gökçen, Türkiye, SOC (appointed on 16.03.2026)

- Origin: [Doc. 16290](#), Reference 4926 of 26.01.2026
- Expiry date for adoption: 26.01.2028
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:
27.05.2026: the committee considered an introductory memorandum, followed by an exchange of views.

10. Human rights challenges in the North Caucasus

Rapporteur: to be appointed

- Origin: [Doc. 16395](#), Reference 4976 of 22.06.2026
- Expiry date for adoption: 22.06.2028
 - Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
 - State of work:

11. Reported cases of political prisoners in Europe

Rapporteur: to be appointed

- Origin: [Doc. 16405](#), Reference 4977 of 22.06.2026
- Expiry date for adoption: 22.06.2028
 - Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
 - State of work:

12. Protecting human rights defenders and independent journalists in Azerbaijan

Rapporteur: to be appointed

- Origin: Bureau decision, Reference 4990 of 26.06.2026
- Expiry date for adoption: 26.06.2028
 - Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
 - State of work:

ii. Reinforcement of the Rule of Law

13. The need to modernise international Humanitarian Law

Rapporteur: Ms Olena Khomenko, Ukraine, ECPA (appointed on 26.05.2026)

(former rapporteur: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan, Armenia, EPP/CD, (appointed on 24.06.2025, resigned on 27.03.2026))

- Origin: [Doc.16122](#), Reference 4862 of 07.04.2025
[+ [Doc. 16125](#), Reference 4872 of 11.04.2025 on “Ensuring lawful and ethical use of artificial intelligence warfare” to be taken into account]
- Expiry date for adoption: 07.04.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:
08.09.2025: the committee considered an introductory memorandum;
02.10.2025: the committee held a hearing with the participation of Mr Marco Sassòli, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva, Commissioner and member of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists;
Mr Stuart Casey-Maslen, Special Advisor to the IHL in Focus Project, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights,
and Ms Nataliia Hendel, Senior researcher, Institute of Information, Security and Law of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine (online);
29.01.2026: the committee authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva (Switzerland), subject to the availability of funds.

14. Threats to the International Criminal Court

Rapporteur: Mr Tekke Panman, Netherlands, EPP/CD (appointed on 24.06.2025)

- Origin: [Doc.16124](#), Reference 4864 of 07.04.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 07.04.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2026 – Fourth part-session (tbc)
- State of work:
30.09.2025: the committee considered an introductory memorandum and authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to the ICC in The Hague, subject to the availability of funds;
27-28.11.2025: the rapporteur carried out a fact-finding visit to the ICC in The Hague;
16.03.2026: the committee held an exchange of views with Judge Nicolas Guillou and Mr Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar, both of the International Criminal Court, The Hague;
25.03.2026: the rapporteur carried out a second fact-finding visit to The Hague
22.04.2026: the committee heard an oral report by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visits to the Hague, 27-28 November 2025 and 25 March 2026;
26.05.2026: the committee considered and unanimously adopted a declaration.

15. How to ensure that the Russian Federation implements the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, including paying the compensation awarded

Rapporteur: Mr Tony Vaughan, United Kingdom, SOC (appointed on 08.09.2025)

- Origin: [Doc. 16149](#), Reference 4880 of 23.05.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 23.05.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2026 – Fourth part-session (tbc)
- State of work:
01.12.2025: the committee considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to the rapporteur’s request to declassify it;
02.12.2025: the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights held a hearing on this topic with the participation of Mr Rupert Skilbeck, Director of REDRESS, London, and Mr Toby Collis, lawyer, European Human Rights Advocacy Centre, London;
29.01.2026: the committee took note of the rapporteur’s upcoming meetings in London;

23.06.2026: the committee held a hearing, with the participation of Mr Frédéric Dolt, Head of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe, and Mr Grigory Vaypan, Senior Lawyer, Memorial, Montenegro.

16. Corruption as a threat to democracy and the rule of law in Europe

Rapporteur: Mr Tekke Panman, Netherlands, EPP/CD (appointed on 30.09.2025)

- Origin: [Doc.16194](#), Reference 4893 of 27.06.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 27.06.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2027 – Second part-session (tbc)
- State of work:

22.04.2026: the committee considered an introductory memorandum and, following a vote, decided to change the title of the report to “Corruption as a threat to democracy and the rule of law in Europe”;

26.05.2026: the committee authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Spain and Hungary, subject to the availability of funds.

17. Accountability for the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine

Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC (appointed on 30.09.2025)

- Origin: Bureau Decision, Reference 4897 of 27.06.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 27.06.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2027 – First part-session (tbc)
- State of work:

01.12.2025: the committee heard a statement by the rapporteur.

16.12.2025: the rapporteur participated in the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine held in The Hague;

28.01.2026: the committee considered an introductory memorandum, agreed to hold two hearings with experts and authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to the Hague and to Kyiv, subject to the availability of funds

16.03.2026: the committee held an exchange of views with Ms Iryna Mudra, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, and Mr Arjen Uijterlinde, Special Envoy for the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands (online);

26.05.2026: the committee held a hearing with the participation of Mr Aarif Abraham, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers, London (Co-Counsel to the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine), Mr Yevhenii Malik, Head of National Security and Defence Programs, Kyiv School of Economics, former prisoner of war captured in Mariupol, and Mr Kostyantyn Davidenko, Charitable Foundation “Civilians in captivity”, Kyiv.

18. Strengthening safeguards against the misuse of dual-use goods by authoritarian regimes

Rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE (appointed on 24.06.2026)

- Origin: [Doc 16359](#), Reference 4957 of 20.05.2026
- Expiry date for adoption: 20.05.2028
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:

19. Fictional justice under occupation: a pseudo-legal system as an instrument of repression

Rapporteur: to be appointed

- Origin: [Doc 16396](#), Reference 4981 of 26.06.2026
- Expiry date for adoption: 26.06.2028
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:

iii. Other matters

20. Use of artificial intelligence by parliaments: risks and opportunities

Rapporteur: Mr Daniel Milewski, Poland, ECPA (appointed on 24.06.2025)

- Origin: [Doc.16123](#), Reference 4863 of 07.04.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 07.04.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: tbc
- State of work:

01.12.2025: the committee considered an introductory memorandum;

26.01.2026: the committee agreed to the rapporteur's request to declassify his introductory memorandum;

26.05.2026: the committee held a hearing with the participation of Mr Antero Habicht, Secretary General of the Riigikogu, and Ms Kristel Kriisa, AI Advisor and Early-Stage Researcher, Tallinn University of Technology.

21. Ensuring accountability for the downing of Azerbaijan Airlines flight 8243 and preventing risks of military targeting of civil aircrafts

Rapporteur: to be appointed

- Origin: [Doc. 16234](#), Reference 4904 of 29.09.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 29.09.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen:
- State of work:

01.12.2025: the committee held an exchange of views and, in the light of the latest developments related to this matter, agreed to come back to this issue at a future meeting.

C. Reports on which the committee is seized for opinion

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:

22. Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic

Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Serhii Kalchenko, Ukraine, ECPA (appointed on 25.01.2024)

Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC

- Origin: Bureau decision, Reference 4768 of 09.10.2023
- Expiry date for adoption: 09.10.2026 (original deadline: 09.10.2025)
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2026 – November Standing Committee (tbc)
- State of work:

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:

23. Media concentration and threats to media pluralism and independence

Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC (appointed on 24.06.2024)

Rapporteur: Ms Valentina Grippo, Italy, ALDE (appointed on 27.05.2024)

- Origin: [Doc. 15916](#) Reference 4798 of 15.04.2024
- Expiry date for adoption: 15.04.2026
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2026 – Fourth part-session (tbc)
- State of work:

Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities:

24. Follow-up to the 4th round of GRECO recommendations relating to parliamentarians

Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL (appointed on 08.09.2025)

Rapporteur: Mr Yunus Emre, Türkiye, SOC (appointed on 05.09.2025)

- Origin: [Doc. 16157](#), Reference 4881 of 23.05.2025
- Expiry date for adoption: 23.05.2027
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen: 2027 – Second part-session (tbc)
- State of work:

Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation:

25. Council of Europe action to protect the human rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees

Rapporteur for opinion: to be appointed

Rapporteur: to be appointed

- Origin: [Doc. 16387](#), Reference 4971 of 22.06.2026
- Expiry date for adoption: 22.06.2028
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen:
- State of work:

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:

26. End Israel's unlawful detention of Palestinian children

Rapporteur for opinion: to be appointed

Rapporteur: to be appointed

- Origin: [Doc. 16433](#), Reference 4987 of 26.06.2026

- Expiry date for adoption: 26.06.2028
- Presentation to the Assembly foreseen:
- State of work:

II. General Rapporteurships

1. General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC (first term: appointed on 02.10.2024)

- **Term of office:** two years, renewable once.

The General Rapporteur on abolition of the death penalty is mandated to intervene in matters relating to the abolition of the death penalty in different contexts (member and observer states, partners for democracy, states applying for such a status). He or she shall report periodically to the committee on the information collected and the action taken.

Responsibilities:

The role of the general rapporteur is to:

- follow activities and maintain working relations with different Council of Europe bodies dealing with issues relating to the abolition of the death penalty (including the Committee of Ministers, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and relevant departments of the Council of Europe Secretariat);
- follow activities and maintain working relations with Council of Europe observer states, partners for democracy and other states applying for such status, seeking advice as necessary from international organisations working in the field;
- represent the committee on behalf of the Assembly when relevant and appropriate;
- in appropriate cases make statements and launch appeals on behalf of the committee;
- follow up previous resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly on death penalty issues, including [Resolution 1807](#) (2011) on “The death penalty in Council of Europe member and observer states: a violation of human rights”, [Resolution 1560](#) (2007) on “Promotion by Council of Europe member states of an international moratorium on the death penalty”, [Recommendation 1760](#) (2006) on “Position of the Parliamentary Assembly as regards the Council of Europe member and observer states which have not abolished the death penalty”, [Recommendation 1627](#) (2003) and [Resolution 1349](#) (2003) on “Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe observer states”, and continue to promote the Assembly’s decisions which appear in these texts.

Activities to date:

- 14.10.2020: the committee considered a revised introductory memorandum and agreed to declassify it.
- 07.12.2021: the committee considered a revised information note, agreed to declassify it and held a hearing with the participation of:
Ms Chiara Sangiorgio, Policy Adviser/Death Penalty, Amnesty International, London, and
Mr Gilberto Jeronimo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg;
- 30.11.2023: the committee considered a revised information note and agreed to its declassification;
- 01.12.2023: the committee agreed to hold a hearing on the abolition of the death penalty in observer and “partner for democracy” States, during the January part-session (open to the public if the experts agree), subject to the availability of funds and subject to time constraints in meeting slots allocated to the committee;
- 25.01.2024: the committee held a hearing with the participation of:
Mr Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan, Director General, Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM), Paris;
Ms Robin Maher, Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC), Washington (online);
Ms Bronwyn Dudley, Program Manager, World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Paris;
- 24.06.2025: the committee considered a revised information note presented by the General Rapporteur and agreed to her request to declassify it;
- 9-10.10.2025: the General Rapporteur participated in an event organised by the Moroccan *Conseil National des Droits de l’Homme* in Rabat, on the occasion of the World Day Against the Death Penalty. She had various meetings, including with the Minister of Justice of Morocco, Mr Abdellatif Ouahbi, and the Coordinator of the Moroccan parliamentary network against the death penalty, Ms Loubna Sghiri;

- 16.03.2026: the committee held a hearing with the participation of Mr Nicolas Perron, Program Director, Together against the death penalty, Paris; Prof. Ron Dudai, Ben Gurion University (Israel), associate researcher, Death Penalty Research Unit, Oxford University, Visiting Fellow at Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, Queen's University, Belfast (United Kingdom); and Ms Tracey Cui, Center for Prisoners' Rights (CPR), Japan (online);
- 16.03.2026: the committee considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution on "Towards the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances" (rapporteur: General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty)
- 1-2.07.2026: the General Rapporteur participated in the 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty held in Paris.

2. General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers:
Ms Anna-Kristinna Mikkonen, Finland,, SOC (first term: appointed on 24.06.2026)

- **Term of office:** two years, renewable once.

The General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers is mandated to intervene in matters relating to cases of intimidation of, and reprisals against, human rights defenders as well as of serious impediments to their work in Council of Europe member States and other European States (such as, for example, killings, attacks on their physical and psychological integrity, arbitrary arrests, judicial and administrative harassment, public defamation or restrictions to freedom of movement). A 'human rights defender' is a person or a group of persons (non-governmental organisation/entity) who, individually or together with others, acts peacefully to promote and protect human rights. This term may refer to lawyers, journalists, NGO activists or other individuals and groups (see, in this connection, the 1999 UN [Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms](#)). It may also include whistleblowers, namely persons reporting illegal activities or abuses of rights that may harm the public interest.

The general rapporteur shall report periodically, at least annually, to the committee on information collected and any action taken.

Responsibilities:

The role of the general rapporteur is to:

- follow activities and maintain working relations, when need arises, with different Council of Europe institutions and bodies which deal with (issues relating to) human rights defenders, including the Committee of Ministers, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary General and the Conference of INGOs;
- follow activities and maintain, when appropriate, working relations with bodies and agencies of the United Nations (including its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders), the European Union, with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), other international governmental and non-governmental organisations;
- represent the committee on behalf of the Assembly *vis-à-vis* any of the above mentioned bodies and groups, when relevant and appropriate;
- in specific cases, make statements and launch appeals on his/her own behalf or propose to do so to the committee;
- follow up previous resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly on issues related to human rights defenders and the protection of whistleblowers.

Activities to date:

- 12.10.2023: the committee examined an information note, agreed to declassify it and held an exchange of views with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Dunja Mijatović;
- 01.12.2023: the committee held a hearing with the participation of:
Mr Sergei Cristo, Whistleblower;
Ms Anna Myers, Executive Director of the Whistleblowing International Network (WIN), United Kingdom;
Mr Jean-Philippe Foegle, Expert on whistleblowers and researcher and doctoral student in public and European law;

- 28.01.2025: the committee 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.
- 10.04.2025: the committee held a hearing with the participation of:
Ms Iva Marković, Co-founder of The Right to Water Initiative and Program Director at Polekol (Serbia);
Ms Kersty McCourt, Human Rights lawyer and Senior Advocacy Advisor at Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Belgium);
Ms Luca Dudits, Executive Board member and Communications Officer at Háttér Society (Hungary);
- 23.04.2026: the committee held a hearing with the participation of Mr Amar Benmohamed, whistle-blower;

3. General Rapporteur for Political Prisoners: Ms Azadeh Rojhan, Sweden, SOC (first term: appointed on 28 January 2025)

- **Term of office:** two years, renewable once.

The General Rapporteur for Political Prisoners is mandated to intervene in matters relating to alleged cases of politically motivated arrests and criminal prosecutions in Europe and in other countries having an observer or cooperative status with the Council of Europe or the Parliamentary Assembly.

Definition:

A “political prisoner” is a person who is deprived of his or her liberty in circumstances fulfilling one or more of the criteria reaffirmed in Assembly [Resolution 1900 \(2012\)](#), namely:

- a. if the detention has been imposed in violation of one of the fundamental guarantees set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols (ECHR), in particular freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression and information, freedom of assembly and association;
- b. if the detention has been imposed for purely political reasons without connection to any offence;
- c. if, for political motives, the length of the detention or its conditions are clearly out of proportion to the offence the person has been found guilty of or is suspected of;
- d. if, for political motives, he or she is detained in a discriminatory manner as compared to other persons; or,
- e. if the detention is the result of proceedings which were clearly unfair and this appears to be connected with political motives of the authorities.” (SG/Inf(2001)34, paragraph 10).

The finding by the European Court of Human Rights, in favour of a person deprived of his or her liberty, of a violation of Articles 5 in conjunction with Article 18 of the European Convention of Human Rights is a strong indication that such a person is a “political prisoner”.

Responsibilities:

The role of the general rapporteur is to:

- follow activities and maintain working relations, when need arises, with different Council of Europe institutions and bodies which deal with issues relating to political prisoners, including the Committee of Ministers, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary General and the Conference of INGOs;
- follow activities and maintain, when appropriate, working relations with bodies and agencies of the United Nations (including its Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions), the European Union, with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in particular the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Special Representative on Political Prisoners, and with other international governmental and non-governmental organisations;
- represent the committee on behalf of the Assembly *vis-à-vis* any of the above-mentioned bodies and groups, when relevant and appropriate;

- in appropriate cases, make statements and launch appeals on his/her own behalf or propose to do so to the committee;
- in appropriate cases, engage in communication with alleged political prisoners or their families and their lawyers;
- follow up previous resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly on issues related to alleged cases of political prisoners.

The general rapporteur shall report periodically, at least annually, to the committee on information collected and any action taken.

Activities to date:

07.04.2025: the committee considered an information note on the situation of political prisoners in Russia and Belarus and agreed to the General Rapporteur's request to declassify it, and to hold a hearing with experts during the fourth part-session, subject to the availability of funds.

III. Bureaux of the Committee and of the Sub-Committees

Plenary Committee

Chairperson:	Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE)
1 st Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Gustaf Göthberg (Sweden, EPP/CD)
2 nd Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Tony Vaughan (United Kingdom, SOC)
3 rd Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Daniel Milewski (Poland, ECPA)

Sub-Committee on Human Rights

Chairperson:	Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC)
Vice-Chairperson:	Ms Arusyak Julhakyán (Armenia, EPP/CD)

Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights

Chairperson:	Ms Belén Hoyo (Spain, EPP/CD)
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Ivan Račan (Croatia, SOC)

IV. Network of Parliamentarians to Promote the Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

Chairperson:	Mr Adam Bodnar (Poland, EPP/CD)
Vice-Chairperson:	Ms Gökçe Gökçen (Türkiye, SOC)

V. Representation of the Committee in 2026

Representatives appointed by the Bureau for 2026

- i. European Commission for Democracy through Law (“Venice Commission”):
Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) – Member
Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, ECPA) – Substitute
- ii. Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe:
Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) – Member
Ms Bisera Kostadinovska-Stojchevska (North Macedonia, SOC) – Substitute
- iii. Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):
Ms Arusyak Julhakyán (Armenia, EPP/CD) – Member
Ms Oana Murariu (Romania, ALDE) – Substitute
- iv. Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL):
Ms Nadejda Iordanova (Bulgaria, NR) – Member
Ms Atidzhe Alieva-Veli (Bulgaria, ECPA) – Substitute

VI. Secretariat of the Committee

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Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

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Appendix: Terms of reference of the Committee and its Sub-Committees

A. General terms of reference applicable to all Assembly committees

1. Committees may examine any matter within their specific terms of reference (Rule 45.1 of the Rules of Procedure) and, possibly, table information reports on these matters (Rule 50.6).
2. Committees shall only prepare reports for debate in the Assembly:
 - 2.1. on matters referred to them (Rule 26);
 - 2.2. when so instructed by texts adopted by the Assembly (taking account of Rule 25.1.b);
 - 2.3. when stipulated by the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
 - 2.4. when mandated to do so by their specific terms of reference;
3. The committees ensure the appropriate follow-up to resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Assembly in the fields covered by their specific terms of reference.
4. Committees may organise conferences and other events on matters within their specific terms of reference and which are linked to their work programme, subject to availability of funds.
5. Committees shall establish and maintain working relations with:
 - 5.1. the competent bodies (committees, etc.) of national parliaments of member States;
 - 5.2. the competent bodies (committees, etc.) of European parliamentary assemblies (European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and others) and of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU);
 - 5.3. subject to decision by the Bureau of the Assembly, the competent bodies (committees, etc.) of national parliaments holding special guest, observer or partner for democracy status;
 - 5.4. subject to decision by the Bureau of the Assembly, the competent bodies (committees, etc.) of national parliaments of non-member States.
6. Committees shall follow the activities of the Committee of Ministers in the fields covered by their specific terms of reference.
7. Committees shall follow the activities of, and maintain working relations with:
 - 7.1. the relevant rapporteur groups, working groups and liaison committees of the Ministers' Deputies and rapporteurs of the Ministers' Deputies;
 - 7.2. the relevant Council of Europe structures and bodies such as the European Court of Human Rights, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Council of Europe partial agreements, the Council of Europe monitoring bodies and the relevant Council of Europe expert committees.
8. Committees are entitled to be represented in the Assembly's delegations to the relevant European conferences of specialised ministers and to follow their activities.

9. Committees shall follow the activities of, and maintain working relations with, the European and international organisations and bodies which carry out activities in the fields covered by their specific terms of reference, in particular the European Union, the OSCE, the United Nations and their agencies and institutions.

10. Committees are entitled to develop and maintain working relations with the European and international non-governmental organisations which carry out activities in the fields covered by their specific terms of reference.

11. Committees shall promote the ratification and the implementation by Council of Europe member States of relevant conventions covered by their specific terms of reference.

B. Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (AS/Jur)

i. Background information

Number of seats: 81

The Committee was established in 1949 with the title “Legal and Administrative Questions” and known from 1956 until the end of 1989 as the “Legal Affairs Committee”, when the title was changed to the “Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights”.¹

ii. Specific terms of reference

[...]

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (AS/Jur)

1. The Committee shall consider all legal and human rights matters (including proposals for and the preparation of statutory opinions on draft Council of Europe conventions) which fall within the competence of the Council of Europe.

2. The Committee shall in particular consider:

2.1. all matters concerning the human rights treaties and mechanisms of the Council of Europe, notably the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5) and its protocols, the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ETS No. 126), and other international instruments;

2.2. other issues concerning the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in Europe, as well as in the observer States and in the States whose parliaments enjoy observer or partner for democracy status, including allegations of serious human rights violations of a systemic or otherwise widespread nature;

2.3. the functioning of national and international judicial institutions (as well as ombudspersons and national human rights institutions), the police, detention centres and prisons in the member States of the Council of Europe;

2.4. national and international criminal law and criminology; the treatment of offenders and conditions of detention (including pre-trial detention); alternatives to imprisonment;

2.5. legal and human rights issues relating to the fight against terrorism.

3. The Committee shall give an opinion on the law, legal practice and the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms of applicant States for membership of the Council of Europe, and of States whose parliaments seek to acquire partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly, to assess compliance with Council of Europe standards.

¹ On 26 January 2015 the AS/Jur's Sub-Committee on the election of judges was replaced by a new general Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (AS/Cdh).

4. The Committee shall promote Council of Europe standard-setting legal instruments in the field of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in non-member States.
5. The Committee shall be in charge of interviewing all candidates for the post of Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, before his or her election by the Assembly. It shall also examine the curricula vitae of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).
6. The Committee shall follow the activities of the European Ombudsmen Conference.
7. The Committee shall share the Assembly representation in the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and in its Council for Democratic Elections.
8. The Committee shall represent the Assembly in the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and shall participate in the work of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).
9. The Committee shall represent the Assembly in, and follow the work of, the relevant expert committees of the Council of Europe.²

C. Terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights (AS/Jur/DH)

(Approved by the Committee on 29 January 2015)

1. The Sub-Committee shall consider any matter falling within the terms of reference of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights relating specifically to the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In particular, the Sub-Committee shall monitor relevant human rights developments in Council of Europe member, observer and applicant States, as well as States whose parliaments enjoy Partner for Democracy status with the Assembly. It shall also follow activities of and maintain working relations with relevant Council of Europe bodies.
2. Moreover, the Sub-Committee shall review and make recommendations to the Committee on lists of candidates for membership of the European Committee on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment (CPT) submitted by States Parties to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture.

D. Terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (AS/Jur/AI)

(Approved by the Committee on 13 December 2018)

1. Having regard to paragraph 2.2.2. of the terms of reference of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Sub-Committee shall consider issues relating to the maintenance of Council of Europe standards on human rights and the rule of law – notably those deriving from the European Convention on Human Rights – in connection with the implementation of new technologies, in particular machine learning and other forms of artificial intelligence, including in the fields of privacy, criminal justice and legal liability for actions taken by systems involving artificial intelligence.
2. The Sub-committee shall seek to identify areas in which greater regulation and co-operation at European and international level are required, including by taking account of work undertaken by the national parliaments of member and observer states and those with partnership for democracy status. It shall follow, with a view to contributing where appropriate, Council of Europe work in this area being undertaken at inter-governmental area.

² This includes the following committees: the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), the European Committee on Crim Problems (CDPC), the Steering Committee for Human rights (CDDH), the Committee on Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Committee (CDCT).

E. Terms of reference of the Network of Parliamentarians to Promote the Implementation of the European Court of Human Rights

(Approved by the Bureau on 2 March 2026)

1. The Network of Parliamentarians to Promote the Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights ("the Network") shall be established under the auspices of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, in accordance with Resolution 2599 (2025) "Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights".

Aim of the Network

2. In accordance with Resolution 2599 (2025), the Network is tasked with promoting and contributing to the full, effective and rapid implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights through the work of parliamentarians. This aim is in line with the Reykjavik Declaration, adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (16-17 May 2023), which recalled that national parliaments also bear responsibility for implementing the Convention and complying with the judgments of the Court, and invited the Assembly (through its President) to strengthen the political dialogue with its national interlocutors in this area.

3. To this end, the Network shall:

- 3.1. Meet in order to: share best practices among members of how they have helped to promote the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights at national level; hear presentations by experts about the implementation of the Court's judgments, including on the most effective structures at national level to promote judgment implementation, key thematic issues, and relevant best practices for parliamentarians; and hear presentations by individual applicants, their representatives, survivors' organisations, and civil society involved in the execution of judgments;
- 3.2. Support parliamentarians in their work to ensure parliamentary scrutiny and to promote the implementation of judgments at national level, for instance through parliamentary oversight, political follow-up, and contributions to accountability mechanisms at the national level, as well as by engaging with relevant national interlocutors and encouraging legislative and structural reforms;
- 3.3. Organise study visits for parliamentarians to observe best practices for parliamentary committees overseeing the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
- 3.4. Publish, disseminate, and update resources for parliamentarians on how to promote the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
- 3.5. Organise training sessions for the staff of national parliaments on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
- 3.6. Conduct awareness-raising at national level concerning the European Convention on Human Rights system, the need to ensure the compatibility of national legislation with the Convention's standards, and the role of parliamentarians in this regard;
- 3.7. Liaise with and cooperate with the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe and the Execution Coordinators Network.

Composition of the Network

4. The Network shall be composed of members of the Parliamentary Assembly, as follows:

- 4.1 two members appointed by each national delegation: one member from the governing majority and one from the opposition;
- 4.2 the members of the Bureau of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights shall be ex officio members of the Network;
- 4.3 one representative appointed by each of the following Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly:
 - Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
 - Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
 - Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
 - Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

- Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
- Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)
- Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

5. The Chairperson of the Network may invite members of national parliaments who are not members of the Network to participate in the work of the Network.

Working methods of the Network

6. The working languages of the Network shall be English and French.

7. The Network will meet in Strasbourg, Paris, or in a member State of the Council of Europe at the invitation of its parliament.

8. The Network shall elect its Chairperson and its Vice-Chairperson, who shall make up the Bureau. It shall renew its Bureau every two years during the Assembly's first part-session. In the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, a meeting of the Network may be chaired by a member of the Bureau of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, or, in their absence, by the longest-serving member present.

9. Except where alternative arrangements are expressly made, the costs of participation of members of the Network in its events shall be borne by their national parliaments.

10. In fulfilling its aim as set out in paragraph 2 of these terms of reference, the Network shall be inspired by the European Convention on Human Rights and other relevant international and Council of Europe treaties, texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as by other relevant international declarations and reports recognising that persistent non-implementation of judgments constitutes a serious threat to the rule of law, respect to human rights and democratic values.

11. The Network may co-operate with parliamentarians and national parliaments outside of Europe, as well as with parliamentary networks and regional and international parliamentary assemblies.

12. The dissolution of the Network shall be subject to a decision of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and to the latter's approval by the Bureau.

Funding

13. The Network shall be funded with voluntary contributions.