



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

AS/Per (2024) PV 03

27 January 2025

Standing Committee

Minutes

of the meeting held in Luxembourg

on Friday 29 November 2024

1. Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, **opened** the meeting and thanked the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies and authorities for their warm welcome and hospitality. The Assembly looked forward to collaborating with them during the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

2. Welcome address by Mr Claude Wiseler, President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies

Mr Wiseler welcomed the Standing Committee and cherished the period when he was a member of the Assembly. For 75 years, the Council of Europe had been the solid base of democratic security for the continent. The values it defends were more important than ever in today's troubling times. Democracy could no longer be taken for granted. Surveys indicated a worrying trend whereby increasing number of young people were not considering democracy as a must. The Council of Europe must take a strong stand against the backsliding of democracy and the Assembly had an important role in this context. Mr Wiseler welcomed the close and constant attention the Assembly paid to the war in Ukraine. He referred to the situation in the Middle East that had repercussions throughout the world, including in Europe where antisemitism and islamophobia were on the rise. The Council of Europe must continue to combat racism, intolerance and discrimination. All member States of the Council of Europe had an obligation to execute the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. Reiterating the support of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies for the Council of Europe, Mr Wiseler praised the Organisation for its role in building a stronger Europe based on solidarity among its members.

3. Exchange of views with Ms Yuriko Backes, Minister of Defence, for Mobility and Public Works, and for Gender Equality and Diversity, in the framework of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

[CM/Inf (2024) 16, CM/Inf (2024) 17]

Welcoming Ms Backes, **the President** reminded that Luxembourg was one of the 10 founding States of the Council of Europe. It was thus highly symbolic that the country's presidency coincided with the 75th anniversary of the Organisation and of the European Convention on Human Rights. The minister could count on the Assembly's support and expertise to complement the Committee of Ministers' work on the priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency.

The President informed members that the call for candidates for the second edition of the Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment had just been launched. The deadline for nominating candidates was 28 March 2025. He asked members to share this information and encouraged them to propose candidates.

Ms Backes referred to the pioneer work carried out by the Council of Europe in the last 75 years, including various conventions that had influenced the policy and legislation of the member States. Luxembourg fully supported this work. The rise of populist and nationalist movements worldwide was extremely worrying. These movement posed a threat to gender equality and attacked the rights of LGBTIQ communities, as well as women's sexual and reproductive rights. Council of Europe member States must fight against this regression and contribute to building a more inclusive, equal and just future. The priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers were based on this premise, and the concept of living together would be at the centre of its action. Governments and parliaments played a crucial role in promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming and combating violence against women. During her presence in Strasbourg for the 25th anniversary of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Backes had visited the European Youth Centre. Engaging with young people and increasing their democratic consciousness were crucial for ensuring a better future. Ms Backes looked forward to working closer with the Assembly and counted on its support during the upcoming six months of the Luxembourg Presidency.

Mr Schwabe stressed that co-operation among States and among the different bodies of the Council of Europe was crucial for protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law. He hoped that Luxembourg would strive to increase this co-operation during its presidency.

Mr Goncharenko referred to the latest developments in Georgia. The situation in the country, which was on a dangerous path, and the nuclear threat posed by the Russian Federation needed to be carefully addressed by the Council of Europe.

Ms Kravchuk welcomed the Minister's reference to the role of young people in safeguarding democracy. She agreed with the previous speaker on the need to address the situation in Georgia.

Referring to the Committee of Ministers' reply to the Recommendation 2258 (2023) "Pegasus and similar spyware and secret State surveillance", **Ms Castel** wondered about the timeline for preparing a non-binding instrument on secret surveillance and human rights, which the Committee of Ministers had considered feasible.

Ms Bayr wondered the minister's views on synergies between her different responsibilities and in particular the interactions between gender equality and equality issues in general on one hand and defence-related issues on the other.

Ms Mezentseva thanked Luxembourg for its decision to bolster Ukraine's defence capabilities by allocating €80 million for weapon production, which underscored the country's commitment to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty. She also encouraged the Presidency to promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Ms Pomaska stressed the importance of sending a clear message in reaction to the latest developments in Georgia. An official statement by the Assembly would reassure those protesting in the streets.

Ms Estrela wondered how the curtailing of women's rights, including in Europe, could be ended.

Ms Tsilosani stressed that Georgia was continuing to follow its European path and that the will of Georgian people would be respected.

The President reminded that the minister had been obliged to leave the meeting due to her schedule. Mr Wiseler had kindly agreed to comment on the issues raised by members.

Mr Wiseler clarified that his comments would focus on the Chamber of Deputies' position on the issues raised, not that of the government. Luxembourg had always been supportive of the Council of Europe and firmly believed in multilateralism by virtue of its size. Therefore, the country would do everything in its power to ensure that the Council of Europe continues to play its rightful role amongst the institutions and maintains its necessary influence. The Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies had a clear position concerning Ukraine: the country needed to be provided with arms and military necessary to its defence and supported financially. Ukrainian refugees had to be welcomed, and all the sanctions must be fully implemented. He clarified that at the level of the government there were separate ministries responsible for gender equality and defence. The government would have an opportunity to answer the remaining questions, as it would be represented at the upcoming part-sessions in Strasbourg.

The President presented the activities he carried out in 2024. His main priority had been to ensure that the Assembly's focus on the war in Ukraine remained sharp and its decisions, meaningful. He had promoted and communicated the Assembly's position in bilateral meetings and international forums, with a view to ensuring that it had a real effect on policies. He had also focused on extending Council of Europe's standards and values globally and building sustainable links with neighbouring regions. He had launched a new award - Human Rights in Motion – for documentary films promoting human rights, and the "talks with the President" - a videocast for engaging with renowned experts on topical issues. He had also strengthened dialogue with the Assembly's partners through numerous meetings, including with top-level State officials, ministers, ambassadors, the Presidents of the OSCE and NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Speakers of Parliaments, and Secretary Generals of relevant international organisations.

4. Examination of new credentials

[Doc. 16078]

The Standing Committee **ratified** the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Finland, France, Netherlands, Poland, Romania and United Kingdom.

5. Modifications in the composition of committees

[Commissions (2024) 08]

The Standing Committee **approved** the changes in the composition of Assembly committees as set out in document Commissions (2024) 08.

6. Requests for a current affairs debate (under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure)

The President informed members that a request for a current affairs debate entitled "Intensification of repressions in Azerbaijan: the situation of political prisoners, threats to democratic freedoms and parliamentary rights" had been submitted by the delegation of Luxembourg. A second request for a current affairs debate entitled "Foreign interference: a threat to democracy" had been submitted by the leaders of the five political groups.

The Bureau had agreed to recommend holding these current affairs debates and appointed Mr Gusty Graas (Luxembourg, ALDE) as the first speaker for the debate on "Intensification of repressions in Azerbaijan: the situation of political prisoners, threats to democratic freedoms and parliamentary rights" and Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) as the first speaker for the debate on "Foreign interference: a threat to democracy".

Ms Tsilosani raised an objection to the holding of the current affairs debate on “Intensification of repressions in Azerbaijan: the situation of political prisoners, threats to democratic freedoms and parliamentary rights” arguing that this debate should take place with the participation of the members of the delegation of Azerbaijan to the Assembly. In light of the recent events in Azerbaijan, **Mr Graas** reiterated his delegation’s request to hold this current affairs debate.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee agreed to hold both current affairs debates, thus **approving** the Bureau’s proposal.

7. Agenda

[AS/Per (2024) OJ 03 rev5]

Ms Kravchuk proposed that the Standing Committee adopt a declaration on the situation in Georgia. There was no objection to this proposal. The agenda was **adopted** as amended.

8. First part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (27-31 January 2025)

[AS/Bur (2024) 42 rev]

The Standing Committee **took note** of the preliminary draft agenda of the first part-session of the Assembly.

9. References to committees

[AS/Per (2024) 07]

The Standing Committee **ratified** the references proposed by the Bureau (see Appendix 1).

10. Current affairs debate on “Intensification of repressions in Azerbaijan: the situation of political prisoners, threats to democratic freedoms and parliamentary rights”

Introducing the debate, **Mr Graas** stressed that the attacks against democracy and violations of human rights in Azerbaijan were an attack against the Council of Europe principles and values, which each member State had committed to respect and promote both individually and collectively. The regime was brutally oppressing any type of expression that deviated from the official position. The concentration of power had reached unprecedented levels, and political opposition, medial, and civil society had been entirely silenced. The recent elections had taken place in a climate of repression, with no real political alternative to the power in place. There was no freedom of expression and journalists were persecuted, even outside of Azerbaijan. In January 2024, the Assembly had decided not to ratify the credentials of the delegation of Azerbaijan. The authorities’ move to declare *personae non gratae* members of the Assembly who had voted in favour of this decision was unacceptable. The Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies had adopted a resolution condemning this move and other national parliaments should follow suit. The Chamber of Deputies had also adopted a motion exhorting the Luxembourg Government to consider appropriate diplomatic actions and to bring the situation in Azerbaijan onto the Committee of Ministers’ agenda. The Assembly must react to these developments and remind Azerbaijan of its commitments towards the Council of Europe.

Mr Schwabe summarised the situation in Azerbaijan as the power of a family dynasty over the people. The country was a “democratic illusion world” where everything looked as it should be in a democracy, but nothing was. The Assembly had consistently criticised Azerbaijan for its shortcomings, and in response, the government had used corruption to avoid further criticism, while the situation in the country had continued to worsen. The Council of Europe values were non-negotiable, and it was up to the government to act according to these values.

Ms Helleland regretted that in a time when all eyes turned to Azerbaijan for COP29 little attention was given to the dire human rights situation in the country. As the situation had become worse than ever, the Assembly found itself in a difficult position in view of the upcoming January part-session where the credentials of the Azeri delegation would be considered. All the statutory bodies of the Council of Europe must work together to improve the human rights situation in Azerbaijan.

Mr Németh welcomed the participation of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Standing Committee meeting. Ahead of the January part-session, the Assembly had to carefully consider, and hopefully change its approach to the issue of credentials of the Azeri delegation. While Azerbaijan’s shortcomings were undeniable, the Committee of Ministers was the Council of Europe’s most important decision body. The Assembly should act accordingly, respecting the balance of powers in the Organisation, and not lose a highly relevant delegation, both geopolitically and economically.

Ms Castel stressed that the Government of Azerbaijan had consistently displayed a flagrant disregard for the key principles of the Council of Europe, as reflected in numerous Assembly reports. An increasing number of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society activists had been imprisoned merely due to their work and for being critical of the authorities. Blacklisting of Assembly members was counterproductive. While maintaining dialogue was essential, the situation had reached a tipping point and a red line had been crossed. It was difficult to work with a delegation

which did not respect any of its obligations. The Assembly should seriously reflect on how it could accelerate its pressure to improve the situation and build a roadmap with clear timelines.

Mr Jensen joined the previous speaker in recalling that Azerbaijan had not addressed the serious human rights and rule of law issues despite repeated resolutions and recommendations from the Assembly calling for progress in these areas. In addition, the authorities had not co-operated with the Assembly, denying its rapporteurs' access to political prisoners, not extending an invitation to observe elections, and lately boycotting some of its members. Should there be no sign of improvement, the credentials of the Azeri delegation should not be ratified. It was up to Azerbaijan to show its good will by taking the necessary steps to restore co-operation with the Council of Europe.

Lord Keen agreed with the concerns expressed and the observation that the Council of Europe had to be a guarantor of human rights. Yet, the Organisation also had an important mediation role with member States that might fall below its standards. There were challenges within every member State and while in the case of Azerbaijan, they were more extreme, the sensible way forward was to engage with the Azeri delegation, bearing in mind that the situation had only worsened since January 2024 and that this downward spiral had to be stopped.

Mr Fridez noted that his own personal experience only but confirmed the criticism regarding Azerbaijani authorities' lack of collaboration and co-operation. There was no easy solution to the problem. With or without sanctions, there would be no positive consequences. It was difficult to imagine a meaningful way to re-establish dialogue and yet imposing sanctions would have serious implications for Azeri citizens. The Council of Europe's human rights protection system could only work if the countries were ready to be self-critical. It was important to uphold the Council of Europe values while maintaining communication channels.

Mr Rubinyan stressed that the Assembly was not subordinate to the Committee of Ministers. The decision not to ratify the credentials of the Azeri delegation in January 2024 was totally legitimate considering the authorities' continuous lack of co-operation, the dire human rights situation in the country, and the ethnic cleansing of Armenians. It would be unthinkable that the Assembly ratify the credentials in January 2025, after the blacklisting of its members and the further worsening of the human rights situation. Maintaining dialogue was meaningful only when a country had shortcomings, not when it had become a full-fledged dictatorship like Azerbaijan.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe referred to his visit to Azerbaijan on the occasion of COP29, which had allowed him to have bilateral meetings with the authorities. The situation was quite particular as Azerbaijan remained a full member of the Council of Europe but had been deprived of the right to participate in the Assembly's work. Since then, the authorities had almost frozen any collaboration with the Council of Europe. If Azerbaijan remained a member State, the collaboration should continue in one way or another. He joined several members in stressing the importance of dialogue, which had to be constructive to achieve results. The Committee of Ministers and the Assembly had the same goals, but different roles. In these different roles, each statutory body should strive to stimulate a movement in the right direction, promote progress and remain united.

Mr Graas noted that there was a certain degree of consensus as regards Azerbaijan's lack of co-operation and of progress in addressing human rights violations. The Bureau of the Assembly should discuss the proper follow up to be given to the current affairs debate. While being firm in defending the Council of Europe values, the Assembly should be open to dialogue with the authorities of Azerbaijan and find a way out of the stalemate.

11. Current affairs debate on "Foreign interference: a threat to democracy"

Introducing the debate, **Mr Hispán** noted that foreign interference posed a real threat to democracy and affected the electoral and political processes in several countries, most recently in the Republic of Moldova and Georgia. Hostile foreign actors increasingly used widespread disinformation campaigns to advance their geopolitical aims. Moreover, they were financially supporting political parties, politicians, or electoral candidates as a tool to interfere in democratic processes and influence specific policy agendas. Cyberattacks and hacking attempts directed at State institutions disrupted access to government websites, obstructed governmental bodies, exposing government networks to hostile actors. Concerns about foreign interference had led several countries to adopt legislation aimed at making legitimate foreign influence activities more transparent - allowing decision makers and citizens to know whose interests were being represented - while discouraging illegitimate foreign interference activities. It was important to ensure that legislation to counter foreign interference align with human rights standards, particularly those safeguarding freedom of expression, association and assembly, which were crucial to the functioning of democracy. In this context, laws on transparency and foreign agents adopted by some countries had come under the Assembly's scrutiny as they were incompatible with human rights standards and facilitated undue political control of civil society and media. For the upcoming elections in Romania and Germany - which were capital for the future of Europe - foreign interference had to be countered.

Ms Bayr referred to her recent election observation mission in the Republic of Moldova, where the Assembly delegation had observed heavy Russian influence with millions of dollars flowing into the country and disinformation campaigns. Several methods had been used to influence the outcome of the constitutional referendum, including offering people to cover for their supermarket expenses in exchange for registering in a telegram group which would subsequently communicate instructions on how to vote; distribution of prepaid credit cards; and offering money in exchange for sharing a video of a member of parliament speaking against the European integration. Appropriate measures must be taken to address foreign interference. All countries had to be prepared for a hybrid war.

Mr Goncharenko stressed that the Russian Federation was threatening the international order alongside its allies like North Korea and Iran and was ready to destroy every value the Council of Europe stood for. Strong action was needed to counter this threat, including via sanctions, and the issue must be kept on the agenda.

Ms Kravchuk noted that while the focus was the Russian Federation's interference in the elections in countries like the Republic of Moldova or Georgia, this interference had a much broader scope, effecting countries like Germany and France. Tech companies had a crucial role in disseminating fake news, and depending on their origin, were not subject to the same restrictions. An increased vigilance was needed to address these challenges.

Ms Castel noted that double standards in foreign interference undermined the credibility of global efforts to promote peace, stability, and mutual respect among nations. Foreign interference was judged differently depending on who performed it; interventions by allies were often considered justified to ensure global stability, democracy, or human rights, while similar actions by adversaries were condemned as illegitimate or destabilising. It was the Council of Europe's responsibility to ensure consistency in addressing foreign interference and to uphold the values of fairness, transparency, and accountability. Actions should be judged not only by who performed them, but by the values they uphold.

Ms Kumpula-Natri stressed that immediate action must be taken against the ongoing hybrid war, including online. Countries should collaborate and learn from each other to find effective ways to counter this systemic threat, including by educating citizens, journalists and raising their awareness, supporting free media, and increasing accountability for tech companies.

Mr Hispán reacted to members' comments by reiterating the need to take concrete steps to address the issue of foreign interference, which was a real and serious threat to democracy in all parts of the world.

Mr Zingeris referred to the Russian and Chinese intelligence activities interfering with elections.

12. Declaration "Georgia must remain faithful to its European values"

[AS/Per (2024) 08]

The President read out the draft declaration "Georgia must remain faithful to its European values" and informed members that the leaders of the political groups had agreed to the text.

Ms Tsilosani spoke against the draft declaration arguing that double standards were being applied to Georgia and that some elements of the declaration were inaccurate, including the suspension by the Georgian Government of accession negotiations with the European Union. Georgia was clearly committed to its European path, was continuing its reforms to this end and would not ask for financial support from Europe to carry out these reforms until 2028. The reference to the brutal repression of the peaceful demonstrations was ill-founded and any possible misuse of power by the police would be investigated. The elections had been well administered according to OSCE observers and the will of the Georgian people should be respected.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the declaration.

13. Observation of elections

Observation of the presidential election (20 October and 3 November 2024) and constitutional referendum (20 October 2024) in the Republic of Moldova

[Doc. 16074]

Ms Bayr, Chairperson of the Ad hoc committee of the Bureau, referred to the huge Russian influence that had marked the presidential election and constitutional referendum. This problem needed to be addressed before the upcoming parliamentary elections in spring 2025, and the election observation report contained some useful recommendations to this end. The campaign had taken place in a very polarised environment with unprecedented attempts to corrupt the electoral process, especially by the Russian Federation. Despite this, the election was well organised, with the commitment of thousands of women who made up 88% of the Precinct Electoral Bureaus. The possibility for Moldovans abroad to vote – a first for the country – had a huge impact on the outcome. Accessibility of polling stations

had to be improved. Ms Bayr congratulated the Moldovan citizens for holding transparent and fair elections despite the challenging context and expressed the Assembly's solidarity with the Moldovan authorities.

Mr Zingeris joined the previous speaker in stressing the importance of preventing the Russian influence during the parliamentary elections to be held in 2025 and asked for further details on the recommendations of the report.

Referring to the statement about the diaspora's impact on the outcome of the election, **Mr Fridez** drew attention to the number and distribution of polling stations abroad. This was a complex issue that needed to be properly tackled before the 2025 parliamentary elections.

Ms Bayr said that the report invited the authorities to investigate electoral irregularities; combat foreign interference and disinformation; improve the electoral legal framework in due time; enhance election administration; ensure fair media practices; strengthen campaign financing transparency; enhance inclusivity and accessibility; broaden civil society participation; and demonstrate commitment to democratic principles. She agreed that the approach regarding the polling stations abroad had to be more inclusive.

The Standing Committee **took note** of the report of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the Observation of the presidential election and constitutional referendum in the Republic of Moldova.

Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (9 June and 27 October 2024)

[Doc. 16077]

Mr Goncharenko, Chairperson of the Ad hoc committee of the Bureau on the Observation of the June elections, noted that the Assembly delegation was the only international parliamentary organisation observing these elections. The voter turnout had hit a historic low of 34.41%, partly due to the coinciding European Parliament elections but mainly due to voter fatigue because of repeated elections. There were also persistent allegations of vote-buying.

Mr Heer, Chairperson of the Ad hoc committee of the Bureau on the Observation of the October elections, noted that the political landscape had been further fragmented due to the split within the Movement for Rights and Freedoms camp. The voter turnout had been higher than the previous elections, probably because of this split. Vote-buying continued to be a problem. Following the elections, a speaker of parliament had still not been elected, and tensions were rising in the Bulgarian Parliament, with no stable coalition in sight. New elections were thus expected, which was regrettable for democracy. As a solution to this vicious circle of elections, increased thresholds could be introduced for political parties to enter the parliament.

Ms Petrushevska welcomed the reference in the report to the importance of introducing legal provisions to foster the participation of minorities. She wondered whether the Assembly delegations had noted any foreign interference in the Bulgarian elections.

Mr Heer replied that NGOs, media, or party representatives had not mentioned foreign interference as a major concern, contrary to the situation in Georgia and the Republic of Moldova where the Russian influence had been very strong. They had referred instead to corruption as an issue to be urgently addressed. Most of the parties that had entered the parliament were pro-Western and the main pro-Russian party had seen a decrease in its votes.

Mr Goncharenko agreed with the previous speaker, adding that because of low turnout, some quite marginal pro-Russian forces had managed to enter the parliament.

The Standing Committee **took note** of the report of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the Observation of the parliamentary elections in Bulgaria.

14. Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement

[Doc. 16067]

Presenting her report, **Ms Rojhan** stressed the importance of having an appropriate framework for the interactions between the Assembly and interest representatives whose activities aim to influence policy and decision making, including lobbyists, professional consultants, NGOs, think tanks and trade unions. The Reykjavik Declaration had called for a further reinforcement of the Council of Europe's engagement with civil society. With a view to strengthening the transparency of interest representative activities in the Assembly and increasing the latter's meaningful engagement with civil society, the draft resolution was recommending, *inter alia*, the drawing up of a code of conduct for interest representatives engaging with the Assembly; the review of the Code of Conduct for members to strengthen the rules on their engagement with interest representatives - including by extending the prohibition on the seeking or

taking of instructions to all members fulfilling important functions such as chairpersons of committees and leaders of political groups. To be implemented, some of the proposals required a subsequent report by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs which was the competent committee to introduce changes to the Rules of Procedure.

Ms Kumpula-Natri welcomed the report, stressing that involving civil society in the work of the Assembly would increase the visibility of the Council of Europe. At the same time, adequate measures had to be taken to ensure transparency of relations with civil society to prevent its possible undue influence.

The Standing Committee **unanimously adopted** the resolution and the recommendation “Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement” [Resolution 2579 (2024) and Recommendation 2287 (2024)].

15. Other business

Mr Zingeris asked whether family members of the Holocaust survivors could attend the commemoration ceremony scheduled during the January part-session.

The Secretary General of the Assembly reminded that during the January part-session, a Holocaust survivor would address the Assembly on Wednesday afternoon on the occasion of the Commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. She kindly asked Mr Zingeris to help the Secretariat identify the families of survivors so that they can be invited to attend the ceremony from the gallery.

16. Next meetings

The Standing Committee **decided** to hold its next meetings in Valetta, Malta, on 23 May 2025, and in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 21 November 2025.

Ms Cachia said that the preparations were under way for the meeting of the Standing Committee in May and that the delegation of Malta was looking forward to welcoming members to Valetta.

The President expressed his gratitude to everyone who made the meeting possible and gave his sincere thanks to the delegation of Luxembourg, especially to its Chairperson, Mr Gusty Graas, for their warm welcome and hospitality.

The President closed the meeting.

APPENDIX 1

References and transmissions to committees

1. **Media freedom in sport**[Doc. 16036](#)**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) and other members of the Assembly**Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*2. **Improving the selection/election procedure of CPT members**[Doc. 16038](#)**Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*3. **Violations of media freedom and the right to information in Poland**[Doc. 16051](#)**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Marcin Romanowski (Poland, EC/DA) and other members of the Assembly**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"*4. **Situation in Venezuela and support for Venezuelans living in exile in Council of Europe member States**[Doc. 16052](#)**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Markus Wiechel (Sweden, EC/DA) and other members of the Assembly**Transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*5. **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**[Doc. 16055](#)**Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**Reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*6. **Frontline States: the role of the Council of Europe in implementing the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum**[Doc. 16056](#)**Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Christiana Erotokritou (Cyprus, SOC) and other members of the Assembly**Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

APPENDIX 2

List of participants / Liste des participants

President of the Parliamentary Assembly / Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Mr Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS Greece / Grèce

Chairpersons of Political Group / Présidents de groupe politique

Mr Frank SCHWABE	Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group (SOC) / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)
Mr Pablo HISPÁN	Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)
Mr Zsolt NÉMETH	European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance (EC/DA) / Groupe des Conservateurs européens et Alliance démocratique (CE/AD)

Vice-Presidents of the Assembly / Vice-président·es de l'Assemblée

Mr Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ	Switzerland / Suisse
Ms Olena KHOMENKO	Ukraine
Ms Agnieszka POMASKA	Poland / Pologne
Mr Markus WIECHEL	Sweden / Suède
Mr Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI	San Marino / Saint-Marin

Chairpersons of National Delegations / Président-es de délégations nationales

Mr Ruben RUBINYAN	Armenia / Arménie
Ms Petra BAYR	Austria / Autriche
Mr Marko PAVIĆ	Croatia / Croatie
Mr Mogens JENSEN	Denmark / Danemark
Ms Kadri TALI	Estonia / Estonie
Ms Miapetra KUMPULA-NATRI	Finland / Finlande
Mr Frank SCHWABE	Germany / Allemagne
Mr Zsolt NÉMETH	Hungary / Hongrie
Mr Bjarni JÓNSSON	Iceland / Islande
Ms Franziska HOOP	Liechtenstein
Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS	Lithuania / Lituanie
Mr Gusty GRAAS	Luxembourg
Ms Naomi CACHIA	Malta / Malte
Ms Rian VOGELS	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Ms Marija PETRUSHEVSKA	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
Ms Agnieszka POMASKA	Poland / Pologne
Ms Edite ESTRELA	Portugal
Mr Markus WIECHEL	Sweden / Suède
Mr Alfred HEER	Switzerland / Suisse
Mr Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI	San Marino / Saint-Marin
Ms Mariia MEZENTSEVA-FEDORENKO	Ukraine

**Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights /
Président de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme**

Lord Richard KEEN

**Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons /
Président de la Commission des migrations, des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées**

Mr Oleksij GONCHARENKO

**Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media /
Présidente de la Commission de la culture, de la science, de l'éducation et des médias**

Ms Linda Hofstad HELLELAND Norway / Norvège

**Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination /
Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination**

Ms Mariia MEZENTSEVA-FEDORENKO Ukraine

**Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs /
Présidente de la Commission du Règlement, des immunités et des affaires institutionnelles**

Ms Heike ENGELHARDT Germany / Allemagne

**Chairperson of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights /
Présidente de la Commission sur l'élection des juges à la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme**

Ms Petra BAYR Austria / Autriche

Committee Rapporteur / Rapporteure de commission

Ms Azadeh ROJHAN Sweden / Suède

Ex-officio member of the Bureau / Membres ex-officio du Bureau

Mr Gusty GRAAS	Luxembourg
Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS	Lithuania / Lituanie
Ms Naomi CACHIA	Malta / Malte

Other members of the Parliamentary Assembly / Autres membres de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Ms Saranda BOGUJEVCI	Assembly of Kosovo* / Assemblée du Kosovo*
Ms Laura CASTEL	Spain / Espagne
Mr Edmunds CEPURĪTIS	Latvia / Lettonie
Mr Yves CRUCHTEN	Luxembourg
Mr Constantinos EFSTATHIOU	Cyprus / Chypre
Mr Paul GALLES	Luxembourg
Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK	Ukraine
Ms Octavie MODERT	Luxembourg
Mr Alexander RYLE	Denmark / Danemark
Ms Alexandra SCHOOS	Luxembourg
Ms Khatia TSILOSANI	Georgia / Géorgie
Ms Stéphanie WEYDERT	Luxembourg

Invited personalities / Personnalités invitées

Mr Claude WISELER, President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies / Président de la Chambre des Députés du Luxembourg
 Ms Yuriko BACKES, Minister of Defence, for Mobility and Public Works, and for Gender Equality and Diversity /
 Ministre de la Défense, de la Mobilité et des Travaux publics, et de l'Égalité des genres et de la Diversité

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo / Toute référence au Kosovo, que ce soit le territoire, les institutions ou la population, doit se comprendre en pleine conformité avec la Résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies et sans préjuger du statut du Kosovo.

Secretaries of Political Groups / Secrétaires des groupes politiques

Ms Francesca ARBOGAST	SOC
Ms Denise O'HARA	EPP/CD / PPE/DC
Ms Maria BIGDAY	ALDE / ADLE
Ms Anna KOLOTOVA	UEL / GUE

Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General / Cabinet du Secrétaire Général et du Secrétaire Général adjoint

Mr Alain BERSET	Secretary General of the Council of Europe / Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe
Mr Bjørn BERGE	Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe / Secrétaire Général adjoint du Conseil de l'Europe
Ms Julie MEYLAN	Adviser, Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe / Conseillère, Cabinet du Secrétaire Général et du Secrétaire Général adjoint du Conseil de l'Europe

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Ms Despina CHATZIVASSILIOU	Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétaire Générale de l'Assemblée parlementaire
Ms Louise BARTON	Director of Committees - Human Dignity and Sustainable Development / Directrice des commissions - Dignité humaine et développement durable
Ms Sonia SIRTORI	Director of Committees - Democracy and Rule of law / Directrice des commissions - Démocratie et État de droit
Mme Valérie CLAMER	Head of the Table Office, Information Management and Events Department / Cheffe du Service de la Séance, de la gestion de l'information et des événements
Mr Sergey KHRYCHIKOV	Head of the Private Office of the President of the Assembly / Chef du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée
Mr Angus MACDONALD	Deputy to the Head of the Communication Division / Adjoint au Chef de la Division de la communication
Mr Alessandro MANCINI	Programme Manager of the Parliamentary Co-operation and Electoral Division / Responsable de programme de la Division de la coopération parlementaire et électorale
Mme Isild HEURTIN	Head of the Secretariat of the Bureau of the Assembly / Cheffe du Secrétariat du Bureau de l'Assemblée
Ms Ayşegül ELVERİŞ	Head of the Secretariat of the Standing Committee / Cheffe du Secrétariat de la Commission permanente
Ms Kateryna GAYEVSKA	Adviser, Private Office of the President of the Assembly / Conseillère, Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée
Mme Martine MEYER	Administrative assistant of the Standing Committee / Assistante administrative de la Commission permanente
Mme Aurélie HAUG	Assistant of the Standing Committee / Assistante de la Commission permanente
Mme Naouelle TEFIFEHA	Assistant of the Bureau / Assistante du Bureau

Other participant / Autre participant

Mr Patrick ENGELBERG	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary / Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire
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