

SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2024) CB 08

4 October 2024

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 30 September to 3 October 2024

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 30 September to 3 October 2024, with Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, then Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), 2nd Vice-Chairperson, and finally Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), 1st Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 30 September 2024 at 15:00**, as regards:
 - ***Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America*** (*rapporteur: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones, Spain, SOC*): heard an online address by Ms María Corina Machado, National Coordinator of Vente Venezuela and winner of the 2024 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, followed by an exchange of views;
- **on Tuesday 1 October 2024 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - ***The situation in Iran and the protection of Iranian human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States*** (*rapporteur: Mr Max Lucks, Germany, SOC*): heard a statement from the rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and took position on fifteen amendments and one sub-amendment to the draft resolution;
 - ***Support for political negotiations to enforce exchange and release of prisoners of war*** (*rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and held a hearing with the online participation of Mr Dmytro Lubinets, Ombudsman of Ukraine, followed by an exchange of views;
 - ***Russian democratic forces***: at the initiative of Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), general rapporteur on Russian democratic forces, approved a motion for a resolution to be tabled on behalf of the committee;
 - ***The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)***: approved a motion for a resolution to be tabled on behalf of the committee;
- **on Thursday 3 October 2024 at 8:30**, as regards:
 - ***Work programme***:
 - ***Declarations of interests***:
 - Political parties and democracy (*rapporteur: Ms Ingjerd Schie Schou, Norway, EPP/CD*): heard from the rapporteur a declaration on absence of conflict of interest;
 - Bürgenstock summit on peace in Ukraine: paving the way (*rapporteur: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE*): heard from the rapporteur a declaration on absence of conflict of interest;

- **Appointments of Committee representatives:** appointed:
 - Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR) to participate in the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine;
 - Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR) to sit on the ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the annual conference of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network (EPTA) on “Artificial Intelligence and Democracy”, on 21 October 2024 in Oslo (in addition to previously appointed members);
 - Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR) to sit on the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Conference “Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport”, on 4-5 November 2024 in Athens (in addition to previously appointed members);
- **Call for candidates:** called for candidates for the following:
 - Youth Rapporteur (Assembly Resolution 2553 “Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly”);
 - Rapporteur on “Situation in Belarus”;
 - General rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus;
- **Western Balkans:** took note of the draft programme and the practical information, and prepared the meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans in Belgrade, on 10-11 October 2024;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised:
 - Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), general rapporteur on Russian democratic forces, to attend the 4th conference of the Russian Anti-War Committee, Berlin, 9-10 November 2024 (subject to the availability of funds);
 - Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), general rapporteur on democracy, to attend the 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM), Strasbourg, 29-30 October 2024 (subject to the availability of funds);
 - Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence” to participate in the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), Geneva (Switzerland), 18-19 November 2024 (at no cost for the Assembly);
 - Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE), rapporteur on “Elections in times of crisis”, to carry out a fact-finding visit to Stockholm, in the framework of the preparation of his report (subject to the availability of funds);
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the changes as highlighted in bold in the Appendix;
- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:
 - Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans, Belgrade, 10-11 October 2024
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations, New York, United States, 11-13 November 2024
 - Wednesday 11 December 2024, Paris
 - January part-session (27-31 January 2025), Strasbourg
 - Wednesday 5 March 2025, Paris
 - April part-session (7-11 April 2025), Strasbourg
 - May 2025 (date to be confirmed)
 - June part-session (23-27 June 2025), Strasbourg
 - Wednesday 10 September 2025, Paris
 - October part-session (29 September-3 October 2025), Strasbourg
 - Thursday 11 December 2025, Paris.

The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday 30 September 2024, with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Situation in the Middle East***: heard a hearing with the online participation of Mr Ehud Olmert, former Prime Minister, Israel, and Mr Nasser Al Kidwa, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Palestinian Authority, followed by an exchange of views;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting***: left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The **Sub-Committee on External Relations** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday 3 October 2024, with Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson of the Committee, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Relations with the United Nations***: prepared the meeting of the sub-committee to be held at the UN Headquarters in New-York, United States, on 11-13 November 2024;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting***: left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Pavel Chevtchenko, Cesare Colombo, John Dorber

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
 Directors 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 the Middle East and the Arab World of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient et le monde arabe de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président

M. FASSINO Piero (SOC) Italy / Italie

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e

Mr SOBOLIEV Serhii (EPP/CD) Ukraine

Full Members / Titulaires

Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s

1.	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
2.	Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
3.	Ms LAMBRECHT Annick (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique	M. RIBAUDO Julien (NI)
4.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	
5.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France	
6.	Mr LUCKS Max (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr ULLRICH Volker (EPP/CD)
7.	Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)	Greece / Grèce	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)
8.	Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
9.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie	
10.	M. FASSINO Piero (SOC)	Italy / Italie	
11.	Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
12.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
13.	M. BRICO Christophe (EPP/CD)	Monaco	
14.	Mr WILDERS Geert (NR)	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	
15.	Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
16.	Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal	
17.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu (EPP/CD)
18.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	
19.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne	
20.	ZZ..	Sweden	
21.	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse	M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)
22.	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)	Türkiye	Mr KOÇAK Konur Alp (NR)
23.	Mr SHEPPARD Tommy (NR)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
24.	Mr SOBOLIEV Serhii (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)
25.	Ms VASYLENKO Lesia (ALDE)	Ukraine	
26.			
27.			
28.			
29.			

Ex officio: M. Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE)

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

**Sub-Committee on External Relations
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission des relations extérieures
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Présidente

Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC) France

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e

...

Full Members / Membres titulaires

1. Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (EPP/CD) Armenia / Arménie
2. Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD) Austria / Autriche
3. Ms BALIĆ Marijana (EPP/CD) Croatia / Croatie
4. Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL) Cyprus / Chypre
5. **Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien** (NR) Belgium / Belgique
6. Mr BENEŠÍK Ondřej (EPP/CD) Czechia/ Tchèque
7. Mr KILJUNEN Kimmo (SOC) Finland / Finlande
8. Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC) France
9. Mr FUNKE Fabian (SOC) Germany / Allemagne
10. Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD) Greece / Grèce
11. Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EC/DA) Hungary / Hongrie
12. Mr TROY Robert (ALDE) Ireland / Irlande
13. Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (EC/DA) Italy / Italie
14. Mrs KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA Zanda (EPP/CD) Latvia / Lettonie
15. Mr LYDEKA Arminas (ALDE) Lithuania / Lituanie
16. Mr BRICO Christophe (EPP/CD) Monaco
17. Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC) Luxembourg
18. Montenegro / Monténégro
19. **Ms POMASKA Agnieszka** (EPP/CD) Poland / Pologne
20. **M. CARVALHO Ricardo** (EPP/CD) Portugal
21. Mr STROE Ionuț-Marian (EPP/CD) Romania / Roumanie
22. Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD) Serbia / Serbie
23. Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC) Spain / Espagne
24. Ms ÅBERG Borianna (EPP/CD) Sweden / Suède
25. Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC) Switzerland / Suisse
26. Mr TÜRKEK Yıldırım Tuğrul (NR) Türkiye
27. Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD) Ukraine
28. Lord BLENCATHRA David (EC/DA) United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
- 29.

Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s

Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)

Mr DE BRABANDERE Bob (EC/DA)

M. MARIE Didier (SOC)

Ms DAĞDELEN Sevim (UEL)

Mr CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios (EPP/CD)

Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)

Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)

Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)

Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)

Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)

Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)

Mr MIRKOVIĆ Aleksandar (EPP/CD)

Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)

M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)

Mr TAN Namık (SOC)

Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)

Mr MORRIS David (EC/DA)

Ex officio: M. Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE)

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

**Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur les Balkans occidentaux
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président

Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL) Greece / Grèce

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président·e

Mme TANGUY Liliana (ALDE) France

Full Members / Membres titulaires

Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s

1.	Ms GJYLAMETI Blerina (SOC)	Albania / Albanie	
2.	Mr BUCHMANN Christian (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
3.	M. RIBAUDO Julien (NI)	Belgium / Belgique	Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (NR)
4.	Ms NOVAKOVIĆ BURSAĆ Snježana (NR)	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine	
5.	Ms BALIĆ Marijana (EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie	
6.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France	M. CADEC Alain (EPP/CD)
7.	Mme TANGUY Liliana (ALDE)	France	
8.	Mr SCHÄFER Axel (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	
9.	Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)	Greece / Grèce	Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)
10.	Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EC/DA)	Hungary / Hongrie	Mr ARATÓ Gergely (SOC)
11.	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
12.	Mr DREOSTO Marco (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)
13.	Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	
14.	Mr LYDEKA Arminas (ALDE)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
15.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)
16.	Ms PETRUSHEVSKA Marija (EPP/CD)	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord	
17.	Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)	Malta / Malte	
18.		Montenegro / Monténégro	Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)
19.	Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
20.	Mr CARVALHO Ricardo (EPP/CD)	Portugal	
21.	Mr MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus (EC/DA)	Romania / Roumanie	Ms DMITREA Dumitrina (EC/DA)
22.	Ms SIMONOVIC BRATIC Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie	Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)
23.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	
24.	Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (EPP/CD)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)
25.	Mr TAN Namık (SOC)	Türkiye	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)
26.	Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	
27.	Lord BLENCATHRA David (EC/DA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr MORRIS David (EC/DA)
28.			
29.			

Ex officio: M. Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE)

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie