



SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2025) CB 05

1 July 2025

## To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### Synopsis

#### of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 June 2025

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 June 2025, with first Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, then Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), first Vice-Chairperson, then Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA), third Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 23 June 2025 at 14:00**, as regards:
  - **Debate under urgent procedure: Global peace under threat: halting the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and addressing the wider conflict in the Middle East**: appointed Ms Ingjerd Schie Schou (Norway, EPP/CD) as rapporteur and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
  
- **on Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 8:30**, as regards:
  - **Support for political negotiations to enforce exchange and release of prisoners of war** (rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD): took position on 30 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
  - **Debate under urgent procedure: Global peace under threat: halting the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and addressing the wider conflict in the Middle East** (rapporteur: Ms Ingjerd Schie Schou, Norway, EPP/CD): considered and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
  - **Work programme**: called for candidates:
    - **Institutional representation**: substitute member to the Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission (CDE);
    - **Rapporteurs for the following reports**:
      - The promotion of democratic security in Europe through soft power ([Doc. 16178](#));
      - Strengthening freedom of expression: an imperative for the consolidation and development of democratic societies ([Doc. 16062](#));
    - **Members of the ad hoc committees of the Bureau of the Assembly**:
      - *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, 2 August 2025);
      - *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy on “[Democracy at risk : how can we revive it?](#)” (Strasbourg, 5-7 November 2025);
      - *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the Conference on Artificial Intelligence (London, 15-16 December 2025);

- **on Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 14:00**, as regards:
  - ***Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence*** (rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Courtney Bowman, Global Director of Privacy & Civil Liberties Engineering, Palantir, Ms Audrey Herblin-Stoop, Vice-President and Head of Global Public Affairs and Communication, Mistral AI (online), Ms Julie Lavet, Head of Policy and Partnerships for Europe, OpenAI, and Mr Ben Nimmo, Principal Threat Investigator, OpenAI (online), followed by an exchange of views;
- **on Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 14:00**, as regards:
  - ***Debate under urgent procedure: Global peace under threat: halting the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and addressing the wider conflict in the Middle East*** (rapporteur: Ms Ingerd Schie Schou, Norway, EPP/CD): took position on 26 amendments to the draft resolution;
  - ***Call for Varosha's return to its lawful inhabitants*** (rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur for follow-up, followed by an exchange of views;
  - ***Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine*** (rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
- **on Thursday 26 June 2025 at 14:00**, as regards:
  - ***The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms*** (rapporteur: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, ECPA): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Yevgeniy Kochetov, Vice Minister of Culture and Information, heard a statement by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan on 3-6 May 2025, and considered an introductory memorandum;
  - ***Russian democratic forces*** (rapporteur: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE): considered a draft report, followed by an exchange of views;
  - ***Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy*** (rapporteur: Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, ECPA): considered an introductory memorandum;
  - ***Work programme:***
    - ***Institutional representation:*** appointed, by acclamation, Ms Rian Vogels (Netherlands, ALDE) as substitute member to the Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission (CDE) for submission to the Bureau of the Assembly;
    - ***Appointment of rapporteurs for report:*** appointed, by acclamation:
      - Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as rapporteur on “The promotion of democratic security in Europe through soft power”, and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
      - Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL) as rapporteur on “Strengthening freedom of expression: an imperative for the consolidation and development of democratic societies”, and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
  - ***Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti*** (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, 2 August 2025): appointed Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD) and Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) as members of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau;
  - ***Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy on “Democracy at risk: how can we revive it?”*** (Strasbourg, 5-7 November 2025): appointed Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Mr Stephen Gethins (United Kingdom, ALDE), and Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as members of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau;

- **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the Conference on Artificial Intelligence** (London, 15-16 December 2025): appointed Ms Dora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD), Lord David Blencathra (United Kingdom, ECPA), Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR), Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), and Mr Chris Said (Malta, EPP/CD) as members of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau, and appointed Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (Finland, SOC), and Mr Serhii Soboliev (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as substitute members;
- **Sub-committees**: approved the composition of the sub-committees (see Appendix);
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2025**: took note of the deadline of 30 June 2025 for the submission of nominations;
- **Authorisations**: authorised Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), in his capacity of General Rapporteur on Democracy, to participate in the AI for Good Global Summit 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland, 8-11 July 2025 (at no cost to the Assembly);
- **Meetings in 2025**: took note of its next meetings to be held as follows:
  - 10 September 2025, Paris
  - October part-session (29 September-3 October 2025), Strasbourg
  - 11 December 2025, Paris

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The **Sub-Committee on External Relations**, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday 23 June 2025 with Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau**: elected, by acclamation, Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL) Vice-Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans**, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday 23 June 2025 with Mr Alexis Tsipras (Greece, UEL), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Exchange of views**: held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Edin Forto, Minister of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Catherine Hugel, Cesare Colombo, John Dorber, Eugen Schoenfeld

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  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

**APPENDIX**

**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**

27 seats / 27 sièges

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Présidente**

Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC) France

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e**

Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL) Cyprus / Chypre

**Full Members / Membres titulaires**

1. Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (EPP/CD) Armenia / Arménie
2. Mr PAVIĆ Marko (EPP/CD) Croatia / Croatie
3. Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (NR) Belgium / Belgique
4. Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL) Cyprus / Chypre
5. Mr BENEŠÍK Ondřej (EPP/CD) Czechia/ Tchéquie
6. Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC) Denmark / Danemark
7. Ms KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra (SOC) Finland / Finlande
8. Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC) France
9. **Mr KÖHLER Achim** (ECPA) Germany / Allemagne
10. Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD) Greece / Grèce
11. Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (ECPA) Italy / Italie
12. Mrs KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA Zanda (EPP/CD) Latvia / Lettonie
13. Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC) Luxembourg
14. Ms LAKOVIĆ Nađa (ALDE) Montenegro / Monténégro
15. Ms PETRUSHEVSKA Marija (EPP/CD) North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
16. Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD) Poland / Pologne
17. M. CARVALHO Ricardo (EPP/CD) Portugal
18. Mr STROE Ionuț-Marian (EPP/CD) Romania / Roumanie
19. Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD) Serbia / Serbie
20. Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC) Spain / Espagne
21. Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC) Switzerland / Suisse
22. Mr TÜRKES Yıldırım Tuğrul (NR) Türkiye
23. Lord BLENCATHRA David (ECPA) United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
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**Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s**

- Mr DE BRABANDERE Bob (ECPA)
- M. MARIE Didier (SOC)
- Mr KOCH Heinrich** (ECPA)
- Mr OIKONOMOU Ioannis (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)
- Lord FOULKES George (SOC)

*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**

27 seats / 27 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 VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
3.	M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)	Belgium / Belgique	Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (ALDE)
4.	Ms SACHEVA Denitsa (EPP/CD)	Bulgaria / Bulgarie	
5.	Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)	Denmark / Danemark	
6.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France	M. CADEC Alain (EPP/CD)
7.	Mme TANGUY Liliana (ALDE)	France	M. Didier MARIE (France, SOC)
8.	<b>Ms FAESER Nancy</b> (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	<b>Mr HARDT Jürgen</b> (EPP/CD)
9.	Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)	Greece / Grèce	Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)
10.	Mr DREOSTO Marco (ECPA)	Italy / Italie	Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)
11.	Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (ECPA)	Italy / Italie	
12.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)
13.	Ms VOGELS Rian (ALDE)	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	
14.	Ms PETRUSHEVSKA Marija (EPP/CD)	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord	
15.	Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)	Malta / Malte	
16.	Ms LAKOVIĆ Nađa (ALDE)	Montenegro / Monténégro	Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)
17.	Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
18.	Mr CARVALHO Ricardo (EPP/CD)	Portugal	
19.	Ms MITREA Dumitrina, (ECPA)	Romania / Roumanie	Ms Elena Simona SPĂTARU (ALDE)
20.	Ms SIMONOVIC BRATIC Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie	Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)
21.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	
22.	Mr BEGIC Denis (SOC)	Sweden / Suède	
23.	Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (EPP/CD)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)
24.	Mr TAN Namik (SOC)	Türkiye	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)
25.	Mr GETHINS Stephen (NR)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Lord BLENCATHRA David (ECPA)
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*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 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**

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3.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	
4.	Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)	Denmark / Danemark	
5.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France	
6.	Mr LUCKS Max (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	<b>Mr Vinzenz GLASER</b> (GUE)
7.	Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)	Greece / Grèce	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)
8.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie	
9.	M. FASSINO Piero (SOC)	Italy / Italie	
10.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
11.	Mr WILDERS Geert (ECPA)	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	Mr van de SANDEN Cees (ALDE)
12.	Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
13.	Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal	
14.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr Virgil Alin CHIRILĂ (SOC)
15.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	
16.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne	Mr GUTIÉRREZ PRIETO Sergio (SOC)
17.	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse	M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)
18.	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)	Türkiye	Mr KOÇAK Konur Alp (NR)
19.	Mr Serhii SOBOLEEV (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	
20.	Ms INGHAM Leigh (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
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