



SECRETARIAT

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06 October 2025

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2025

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2025, with first Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, then Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA), third Vice-Chairperson, and Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), first Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 29 September 2025 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: Russia: new threats to European democracies**: appointed, by acclamation, Mr Iulian Bulai (Romania, ALDE) as rapporteur, subject to hearing from him a declaration of interests;
 - **Strengthening mechanisms for early warning and action in conflict prevention** (*rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;

- **on Tuesday 30 September 2025 at 08:30**, as regards:
 - **The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms** (*rapporteur: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, ECPA*): took position on 7 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: Russia: new threats to European democracies** (*rapporteur: Mr Iulian Bulai, Romania, ALDE*): heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interests from the rapporteur and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Elections in times of crisis** (*rapporteur: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **Situation in the Middle East** (*rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard statements by the rapporteur, Ms Dora Bakoyannis, and by Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, followed by an exchange of views;

- **on Wednesday 1 October 2025 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - **Russian democratic forces** (*rapporteur: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE*): took position on 28 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and decided to support one oral sub-amendment;
 - **Reporting back on participation in meetings**: heard a statement from Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) about his online participation in the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections, on 6 June 2025;

- **Work programme:**
 - **Requests for the extension of references:** agreed to request extensions of the validity of the following references for a period of one year:
 - o Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy (*rapporteur: Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, ECPA*), until 22 January 2027;
 - o Situation in the Middle East (*rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*), until 26 January 2027;
 - o Situation in Belarus (*rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*), until 26 January 2027;
 - **Reference for information:** took note of the reference on *Regular working relationships with Taiwan*;
- **Composition of the sub-committees:** approved the change in the Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans, as highlighted in bold in the Appendix;
- **Authorisations:** authorised Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), in his capacity as General Rapporteur on Democracy, to participate in the Annual Conference of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, in Strasbourg, on 16-17 October 2025 (at no cost to the Assembly);
- **on Thursday 2 October 2025 at 08:30**, as regards:
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: Russia: new threats to European democracies** (*rapporteur: Mr Iulian Bulai, Romania, ALDE*): took position on 8 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Political parties and democracy** (*rapporteur: Ms Ingjerd Schie Schou, Norway, EPP/CD*): took position on 5 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and supported one sub-amendment;
 - **Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
- **Work programme:**
 - **Appointment of a rapporteur for report:** appointed, by acclamation, Mr Ricardo Carvalho (Portugal, EPP/CD) as rapporteur on *Suspension of Israel's observer status*, and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - **Other business:** took note of the withdrawal of Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) from the list of members of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 5-7 November 2025);
 - **Meetings in 2025:** took note of its next meeting to be held as follows:
 - 10 December 2025, Paris.

The **Sub-Committee on External Relations**, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday 29 September 2025, with Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Exchange of views:** held an exchange of views with the Observer delegation of Canada;
- **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 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.	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
2.	M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)	Belgium / Belgique	Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (ALDE)
3.	Ms SACHEVA Denitsa (EPP/CD)	Bulgaria / Bulgarie	
4.	Mr PAVIĆ Marko (EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie	
5.	Mr VALENTIN Kim (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.	Ms FAESER Nancy (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr HARDT Jürgen (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 SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie	Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)
21.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	
22.	Mr BEGIĆ Denis (SOC)	Sweden / Suède	
23.	Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (EPP/CD)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)
24.	Mr TAN Namık (SOC)	Türkiye	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)
25.	Mr GETHINS Stephen (NR)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Lord BLENCATHRA David (ECPA)
26.			
27.			

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