

SECRETARIAT

AS/PoI (2024) CB 09
13 December 2024

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 11 December 2024

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 11 December 2024, with Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***The need for a renewed rules-based international order*** (*rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation as amended;
- ***Evaluation of the functioning of the Partnership for Democracy***: held an exchange of views with the Partner for Democracy delegation of Morocco following the entry into force of the amended Rules of Procedure and decided to propose to the Bureau that the provisions of paragraph 64.7. be implemented with respect to the Partner for Democracy delegation of Morocco, and that this delegation be granted the additional rights provided for in sub-paragraphs 64.7.a to 64.7.e. as of the January 2025 part-session of the Assembly;
- ***Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World***: held an online hearing on the situation in the Middle East with the participation of Mr Charles Lister, Middle East Institute, Senior Fellow, Director of Syria and Countering Terrorism & Extremism programs, and heard a statement by Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Chairperson, followed by an exchange of views;
- ***General Rapporteur on Russian democratic forces*** (*General Rapporteur: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE*): held an online hearing with the participation of Mr Garry Kasparov, Free Russia Forum, Russian Action Committee, Russian Anti-War Committee;
- ***Support for political negotiations to enforce exchange and release of prisoners of war*** (*rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Danielle Bell, Head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, and Ms Ariane Bauer, International Committee of the Red Cross Regional Director for Europe & Central Asia, followed by an exchange of views, and considered an outline report;
- ***Strengthening mechanisms for early warning and action in conflict prevention*** (*rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
- ***Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans***: heard a statement by Mr Alexis Tsipras (Greece, UEL), Chairperson, on the meeting held in Belgrade on 10-11 October 2024;
- ***Sub-Committee on External Relations***: heard a statement by Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), Chairperson, on the meeting held at the UN Headquarters in New York, on 11-13 November 2024;

- **Participation in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network:** decided to ask the Bureau to set up an ad hoc Committee to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, to be held on 5-7 February 2025 in Paris, and appointed Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD), Mr Titus Corlătean (Romania, SOC), and Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) to sit on it (subject to its setting up by the Bureau), and took note of the interest of Ms Dora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (Finland, SOC), and Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) to be part of it should there be seats available;
- **Work programme:**
 - **Appointment of a general rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus:** appointed, by acclamation, Mr Ryszard Petru (Poland, ALDE), and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs for reports:** appointed, by acclamation:
 - Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/DC), rapporteur on the “Situation in Belarus”, and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), rapporteur on “Russian democratic forces”, and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), rapporteur on “The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)”, and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), rapporteur on “Shaping the Parliamentary Assembly’s relations with the United Nations Human Rights Council”, subject to hearing from him a declaration of interests;
 - **Appointment of a Youth Rapporteur:** appointed, by acclamation, Mr Max Lucks (Germany, SOC), subject to hearing from him a declaration of interests;
 - **References for information:** took note of the following references:
 - Role of the Council of Europe in countering the sanctions’ evasion and creating a Register of entities assisting the Russian Federation in circumventing restrictive measures;
 - Establishing closer co-operation with Mongolia;
 - Situation in Venezuela and support for Venezuelans living in exile in Council of Europe member States;
 - **Reply by the Committee of Ministers:** considered the Committee of Ministers’ reply to Recommendation 2266 (2024) on “A democratic future for Belarus”;
 - **Reporting back on participation in meetings:** heard Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) about his participation in the Fourth conference of the Russian Anti-War Committee, Berlin, 9-10 November 2024;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised Mr Ryszard Petru (Poland, ALDE), general rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus, to participate in the “High-Level Conference on Belarus: Standing with the People of Belarus”, in Brussels, on 12 December 2024;
- **Other business:** took note of the Call for nominations for the [2025 Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment](#);

- **Next meetings:** took note of the meetings in 2025 to be held as follows:
 - January part-session (27-31 January 2025), Strasbourg
 - Wednesday 5 March 2025, Paris
 - April part-session (7-11 April 2025), Strasbourg
 - May 2025 (date and venue *tbc*)
 - 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.

Catherine Hugel, 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