



AS/Soc (2025) CB01

3 February 2025

## To the members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

### Synopsis

### of the meetings held in Strasbourg during the first part session 2025

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Strasbourg on

• **Monday, 27 January 2025, at 2.15 pm**, with first Lord Don Touhig (United Kingdom, SOC), oldest member present, and then Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), re-elected Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

– ***Election of the Bureau of the Committee:***

re-elected by acclamation:

- Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), Chairperson
- Ms Danuta Jazłowiecka (Poland, EPP/CD), first Vice-Chairperson
- Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, ECPA), second Vice-Chairperson

elected by acclamation:

- Lord Don Touhig (United Kingdom, SOC), third Vice-Chairperson

- ***Standing invitation:*** decided, in accordance with Resolution 1376 (2004) and the decision of the Bureau of the Assembly of 4 October 2004 approved the same day by the Assembly, and according to Article 48.7 of the Rules of Procedure, to invite the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend its meetings during the Assembly's 2025 Ordinary Sessions; also decided, in accordance with Resolution 2530 (2024), that the representative delegation of Belarusian democratic forces attending its meetings during the Assembly 2025 Ordinary Session would have the right to speak

– ***Reconstitution of Sub-Committees:***

decided to reconstitute the following Sub-Committees as indicated in the appendix:

- Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize
- Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter

and decided not to reconstitute the following Sub-Committees:

- Sub-Committee on Children
- Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development

- ***The absolute and urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis for women, children and the hostages in Gaza*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Saskia Kluit, Netherlands, SOC*): with Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, ECPA), Vice-Chairperson in the Chair, considered and unanimously adopted an addendum;

– ***Committee's work programme and priorities:***

- ***Institutional representation of PACE:*** appointed for the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – Council of Europe North-South Centre – Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), as representative, and Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD) as alternate, for submission to the Bureau of the Assembly;
- ***Appointment of General rapporteur:*** appointed rapporteurs as follows:
  - ✓ Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) as General Rapporteur on Local and Regional Authorities of the Parliamentary Assembly and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;

- ✓ Ms Elena Bonetti (Italy, ALDE) as General Rapporteur on Child Participation of the Parliamentary Assembly and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Appointment of rapporteur for report:** appointed rapporteurs as follows:
  - ✓ Mr Jan Filip Libicki (Poland, EPP/CD) as rapporteur on “The situation of Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities” and heard his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
  - ✓ Ms Larysa Bilozir (Ukraine, ALDE) as rapporteur on “Ensuring sustainable food security in times of crisis: strengthening resilience and access to food” and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Appointment of rapporteur for opinion:** appointed rapporteurs as follows:
  - ✓ Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) as rapporteur for opinion on the “European Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law” (*subject to a request from the Committee of Ministers*) and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
  - ✓ Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on the “Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine” (*subject to a request from the Committee of Ministers*) and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Appointment of representatives to external events:** appointed Committee representatives as follows (*subject to the availability of funds*):
  - ✓ *Ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, 5-7 February 2025, Paris – Ms Eka Sepashvili (Georgia, ECPA)\* and Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) (*waiting list in addition to the earlier appointed members - Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) and Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, ECPA)*);
  - ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME), 11-12 February 2025, Strasbourg - Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC);
  - ✓ Kick off meeting at the National Assembly of the French Parliament on the challenges of a framework law on the right to food, 19 February 2025, Paris – Mr Allal Amraoui (Morocco);
  - ✓ 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, 25-27 March 2023, Strasbourg – Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE);
  - ✓ 11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), 1-2 April, Strasbourg – Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC);
  - ✓ *Ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the Midterm Review Conference of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), 3-4 April 2025, Strasbourg – Ms Elena Bonetti (Italy, ALDE), Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), Ms Eka Sepashvili (Georgia, ECPA)\*, Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE), Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD) and Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC);
  - ✓ *Ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the parliamentary conference on “Envisioning effective public policy to prevent & address cases of missing migrants”, organised as a follow-up to Resolution 2569 (2024) “Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – A call to clarify their fate”, 23-24 April 2025, Strasbourg - Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) and Ms Eka Sepashvili (Georgia, ECPA)\*;
- **Other business:** was informed about the call for nominations for the 2025 Václav Havel Prize and of the deadline of 30 April 2025 for the submission of nominations

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\* The PACE subsequently adopted Resolution 2585 (2025) suspending the right of the members of the Georgian delegation to represent the Assembly “on an occasional basis (by Bureau or committee decision) at events, meetings, conferences organised by Council of Europe bodies, international organisations or interparliamentary assemblies”.

- **Tuesday, 28 January 2025, at 8:30 am**, with Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), Chairperson in the Chair, and then Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, ECPA), Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
  - ***The absolute and urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis for women, children and hostages in Gaza*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Saskia Kluit, Netherlands, SOC*): took position on 34 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
- **Thursday, 30 January 2025, at 2:00 pm**, with Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), Chairperson in the Chair, as regards:
  - ***“Long Covid” and access to the right to health*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Carmen Leyte, Netherlands, SOC*): noted that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution;
  - considered **Committee of Ministers’ replies to Assembly Recommendations** as follows:
    - Recommendation 2273 (2024) on “Towards Council of Europe strategies for healthy seas and oceans to counter the climate crisis” (*Rapporteur: Ms Yulia Ovchynnykova, Ukraine, ALDE*);
    - Recommendation 2264 (2024) on “Heritable genome editing in human beings” (*Rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC*);
    - Recommendation 2276 (2024) on “Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour” (*Rapporteur: Ms Eka Sepashvili, Georgia, ECPA*);
    - Recommendation 2265 (2024) on “the situation of the children of Ukraine” (*Rapporteur: Ms Olena Khomenko, Ukraine, ECPA*);
  - heard back from the Committee representatives to external events as follows: Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Council of Europe Governmental Committee on Environment (GME), 9-11 December 2024;
  - **Other business:** took note of:
    - the Information note of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination about gender equality in the functioning of the Assembly;
    - the Introductory memorandum of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs concerning how to increase members’ active participation and notably their contribution to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly and its Committees;
  - **Dates and places of next meetings:**
    - Plenary committee**
      - 7 March 2025, Paris office
      - Second part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 7-11 April 2025, Strasbourg
      - 15 May 2025, Helsinki
      - Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23-27 June 2025, Strasbourg
      - 11 September 2025, Paris office
      - Fourth part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 29 September- 3 October 2025, Strasbourg
      - 4 December 2025, Paris office
    - Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize**
      - Second part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 7 – 11 April 2025, Strasbourg
    - Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter**
      - Second part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 7 – 11 April 2025, Strasbourg
    - Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment**
      - 13 February 2025, Luxembourg, followed by the Parliamentary Conference on “The Role of National Parliaments in Protecting the Right to a Healthy Environment”, 14 February 2025
      - Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23 – 27 June 2025, Strasbourg
      - 3 December 2025, Paris office (to be confirmed)

**Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine**

- 6 March 2025, Paris office
  - Second part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 7 – 11 April 2025, Strasbourg
  - 16 May 2025, Helsinki (*to be confirmed*)
- **Dates and places of next projects' events:**
- Project “environment”**
- 14 February 2025, Luxembourg, Parliamentary Conference on “The Role of National Parliaments in Protecting the Right to a Healthy Environment”
  - 5 March 2025, La Haye, Parliamentary Conference on “The role of the Dutch Parliament in safeguarding the right to a healthy environment”

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**The Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize**, meeting in Strasbourg on **Monday, 27 January 2025**, with first Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD), oldest member present, and then Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), elected Sub-Committee Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- elected *in absentia* Mr Christian Petry (Germany, SOC), Chairperson;
  - elected by acclamation Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), Vice-Chairperson;
- was informed about the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Europe Prize in Donostia San Sebastián (Spain) on 6 June 2025 (*to be confirmed*);
- **Date and place of the next meetings:**
- Second part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 7-11 April 2025, Strasbourg (*in camera, date to be confirmed*);
  - Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23-27 June 2025, Strasbourg (*date to be confirmed*).

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**The Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment**, meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday, 29 January 2025, with first Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC), oldest member of the Network, and then Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC), elected Network Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Bureau of the Network:**
- elected by acclamation Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC), Chairperson
  - postponed the election of the Vice-Chairperson until the next meeting
- **Focus on the Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment:**
- watched slides on the retrospective of the Network's highlights since its creation;
  - was informed about the general trends impacting the work of the Network (participation of young people, involvement of civil society, presence of parliamentarians);
  - viewed a presentation on the Network website;
- **State of play of the Organisation's work relating to the environment:** heard a presentation by Mr Rafael Benitez, Director, Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment of the Council of Europe, on the state of the work of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), the timetable towards the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law, the construction of the Environment Strategy by the *ad hoc* Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:**
- 13 February 2025, Luxembourg, followed by the Parliamentary Conference on “The Role of National Parliaments in Protecting the Right to a Healthy Environment” on 14 February 2025
  - Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23 – 27 June 2025, Strasbourg
  - 3 December 2025, Paris office

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**The Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine**, meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday, 30 January 2025, with Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA), Network Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Re-confirmation of the Bureau of the Network:**
  - Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA), Chairperson
  - Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (Finland, SOC), Vice-Chairperson
- **The situation of children in the temporarily occupied territories:** held an exchange of views with Mme Olga Altunina, Representative of the Ombudsman for the rights of citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine, an Ukrainian teenager who returned from the occupied territory, and Mme Natalia Mezina, psychologist, Ukrainian Child Rights Network;
- **Workplan of the network:** held a presentation and adopted the workplan;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:**
  - 6 March, Paris office
  - Second part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 7 – 11 April 2025, Strasbourg
  - 16 May 2025, Helsinki (*to be confirmed*)

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**The Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter**, meeting in Strasbourg on **Thursday, 30 January 2025**, with first Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD), oldest member present, then Mr Paul Galles (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) as re-elected Sub-Committee Chairperson, in the Chair:

- re-elected by acclamation Mr Paul Galles (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Chairperson
- postponed the election of the Vice-Chairperson until the next meeting
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** second part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 7-11 April 2025 (*to be confirmed*)

Catherine Du Bernard, Aiste Ramanauskaite, Jannick Devaux, Claire Dubois-Hamdi,  
Olga Kostenko, Prisca Barthel, Grazia-Alessandra Siino

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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

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development  
Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable

**Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize**  
**Sous-commission du Prix de l'Europe**

**List of members/Liste des membres**  
(27 seats/27 sièges)

Chairperson / *Président·e* : Mr Christian Petry

Vice-Chairperson / *Vice-Président* : Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez

<b>Members / Membres</b>				<b>Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s</b>	
1.	Ms	Minna Reijonen	Finland/ <i>Finlande</i>		Zz...
2.	M.	Alexandre Dufosset	France	M.	Alain Milon
3.	Ms	Eka Sepashvili	Georgia/ <i>Géorgie</i>		Zz...
4.	Mr	Christian Petry	Germany/ <i>Allemagne</i>	Ms	Catarina dos Santos-Wintz
5.	Mr	Joseph O'Reilly	Ireland/ <i>Irlande</i>		Zz...
6.	Mr	Stefano Maullu	Italy/ <i>Italie</i>		Zz...
7.	Mr	Miloš Konatar	Montenegro/ <i>Monténégro</i>		Zz...
8.	Ms	Jamila Madeira	Portugal		Zz...
9.	Ms	Diana Stoica	Romania/ <i>Roumanie</i>	Mr	Cristian-Augustin Niculescu-Țâgârlaş
10.	Mr	Vladimir Đorđević	Serbia/ <i>Serbie</i>		Zz...
11.	Ms	Carmen Leyte	Spain/ <i>Espagne</i>	Ms	María Fernández
12.	M.	Pierre-Alain Fridez	Switzerland/ <i>Suisse</i>	Ms	Sibel Arslan
13.	Mr	Berdan Öztürk	Türkiye		Zz...
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*Ex officio*: Ms Saskia Kluit

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development  
*Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable*

**Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter**  
**Sous-commission sur la Charte sociale européenne**

**List of members / Liste des membres**  
 (27 seats / 27 sièges)

Chairperson / *Président·e* : Mr Paul Galles  
 Vice-Chairperson / *Vice-Président·e* : Zz...

**Members / Membres**

**Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s**

1.		Zz...	Andorra / <i>Andorre</i>		Zz...
2.	Ms	Hripsime Grigoryan	Amenia / <i>Arménie</i>		Zz...
3.	Ms	Anne Lambelin	Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>	Mr	Andries Gryffroy
4.		Zz...	Bulgaria / <i>Bulgarie</i>		Zz...
5.		Zz...	Denmark / <i>Danemark</i>		Zz...
6.	Ms	Minna Reijonen	Finland / <i>Finlande</i>		Zz...
7.	Mr	Alain Milon	France		Zz...
8.		Zz...	France		Zz...
9.	Ms	Eka Sepashvili	Georgia / <i>Géorgie</i>		Zz...
10.	Ms	Catarina dos Santos-Wintz	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>		Zz...
11.		Zz...	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>		Zz...
12.	Ms	Róisín Garvey	Ireland / <i>Irlande</i>		Zz...
13.	Ms	Elena Bonetti	Italy / <i>Italie</i>		Zz...
14.		Zz..	Lithuania / <i>Lituanie</i>		Zz...
15.	Mr	Paul Galles	Luxembourg		Zz...
16.	Ms	Jamila Madeira	Portugal		Zz...
17.	Ms	Diana Stoica	Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>		Zz...
18.	Mr	Vladimir Djordjevic	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>		Zz...
19.	Ms	María Fernández	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	Mr	José Latorre
20.	Ms	Valérie Piller Carrard	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	Ms	Sibel Arslan
21.	Ms	Céline Amaudruz	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>		Zz...
22.	Ms	Gökçe Gökçen	Türkiye		Zz...
23.		Zz...	Ukraine		Zz...
24.	Mr	Dan Aldridge	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>		Zz...
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*Ex officio: Ms Saskia Kluit*