

AS/Soc (2024) CB08
10 December 2024

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 6 December 2024

followed by the Conference on “The Council of Europe’s fight against child abuse in institutions in Europe”

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Strasbourg, on **Friday, 6 December 2024**, with first Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, EC/DA), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, and then Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), newly elected Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Chairperson of the Committee:** elected by acclamation Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), Chairperson;
- **“Long Covid” and access to the right to health** (*Rapporteur: Ms Carmen Leyte, Spain, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, with a view to presenting the report for debate during the first part of the 2025 session of the Assembly;
- **Promoting Universal Health Coverage** (*Rapporteur: Ms Heike Engelhardt, Germany, SOC*): changed the French title of the report to “Promouvoir la couverture santé universelle”, decided to request from the PACE Bureau the extension of reference for the report by six months and held a public hearing with Ms Marjolaine Nicod, Head, UHC2030 Secretariat - World Health Organization;
- **The humanitarian situation of (mainly) children and women in Gaza, the West Bank and in Israël** (*Rapporteur: Ms Saskia Kluit, Netherlands, SOC*): considered a draft report, changed the title of the report to “The absolute and urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis for women, children and the hostages in Gaza” and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, with a view to presenting the report for debate during the first part of the 2025 session of the Assembly;
- **Committee’s work programme and priorities:**
 - appointed Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) as Youth Rapporteur;
 - appointed Mr Paul Galles (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) to participate in a roundtable discussion on “Social Rights are Human Rights: the (revised) European Social Charter and the European Pillar of Social Rights in the follow-up to the Vilnius and La Hulpe Declarations”, organised by the Council of Europe and Social Platform, 12 December 2024, Brussels, Belgium;
 - nominated Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) and Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, EC/DA) to participate to the meeting of the Global Parliamentary Network (GPN) of the OECD to be held on 5-6 February 2025 in Paris (subject to the PACE Bureau’s decision to set up an ad hoc committee to this end);
 - heard reports from Committee representatives to following external events:
 - Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) on the 5th Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO), 11-14 June 2024, Strasbourg;
 - Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) on the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti, 2 August 2024, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland;
 - Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) on the 1st Meeting of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME), 25-27 September 2024, Strasbourg;
 - Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, EC/DA) on the 47th Session of the Congress of Local and Regional authorities, 15-17 October 2024, Strasbourg;

- Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) on the 6th Meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO), 26-29 November 2024, Strasbourg;
- Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) on the 101st Meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), 26-29 November 2024, Strasbourg;
- Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on the Conference “Addressing homelessness through social investment”, 3 December 2024, Strasbourg;

– **Other business:**

- was informed about the implementation of projects financed by member States’ voluntary contributions on children protection and environment and noted the next events: the seminar on “The protection of children against online violence” (Rome, 9 December 2024), the Conference on healthy environment (Luxembourg, 13-14 February 2025) and the event on the right to healthy environment (The Hague, 5 March 2025);
- noted that the call for candidates for the second edition of the Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment had been opened at the Luxembourg Standing Committee on 29 November 2024, with a closing deadline of 28 March 2025;

– **Date and place of next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Plenary committee

- First part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 27 – 31 January 2025, Strasbourg
- 7 March 2025, Paris office
- Second part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 7 – 11 April 2025, Strasbourg
- 21 May 2025, Paris office
- 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

- First part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 27 – 31 January 2025, Strasbourg

Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development

- First part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 27 – 31 January 2025, Strasbourg

Sub-Committee on Children

- First part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 27 – 31 January 2025, Strasbourg

Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter

- First part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 27 – 31 January 2025, Strasbourg

Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment

- First part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 27 – 31 January 2025, Strasbourg
- 14 February 2025, Luxembourg
- 20 May 2025, Paris office
- 3 December 2025, Paris office

Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine

- First part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 27 – 31 January 2025, Strasbourg

- **“The Council of Europe’s fight against child abuse in institutions in Europe”:** held a conference organised in collaboration with the Swiss delegation to PACE and the Guido Fluri Foundation.

Catherine Du Bernard, Aiste Ramanauskaite, Jannick Devaux, Claire Dubois-Hamdi, Grazia-Alessandra Siino

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