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## Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

### The Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment<sup>1</sup>

#### Revised terms of reference<sup>2</sup>

Duration: 2022-2027

In accordance with Resolution 2399 (2021) on “the climate crisis and the rule of law”, the **Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment** of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (**hereafter, “the Network”**) was constituted during the January 2022 part-session of the Assembly under the auspices of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

The terms of reference of the network were adopted by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 for transmission to the Bureau of the Assembly. **The Committee adopted a revised version at its meeting on 13 September 2024 for transmission to the Bureau.**

#### Aims of the network

1. In accordance with Resolution 2399 (2021) on “the climate crisis and the rule of law”, **the general aim** of the Network is “to inspire and follow the action taken by the national authorities to honour the strong commitments they have made vis-à-vis the climate crisis while fostering the mutual enrichment of ideas and setting up regular opportunities for parliamentarians in Europe and on other continents to pool their experience.” **To this end**, the Network shall be inspired by international and European **instruments** and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and **shall promote** the texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly relating to the environment.

2. **As a platform for exchanges, the Network shall pursue the following specific goals: work to improve climate governance and to embed and promote the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in treaties, national legislation, public policies, business and public practice and consciousness in Europe and elsewhere.**

3. **To achieve these goals, the Network shall:**

- **Raise parliamentarians’ awareness of their role in their respective assemblies in connection with the direction, content and funding of environmental policies and the adoption of legislation affecting the environment.**
- **Inform parliamentarians about developments in the strategies, standards and supervisory mechanisms which exist within the Council of Europe and other relevant bodies regarding human and environmental rights and of their role in helping them to evolve towards better protection of the right to a healthy environment.**
- **Improve interaction between parliamentarians, representatives of civil society in the broadest sense and climate justice mechanisms.**

<sup>1</sup> Modified title. The original title was: Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a Healthy Environment.

<sup>2</sup> Revised terms of reference approved by the Bureau at its meeting on 4 October 2024 and ratified by the Assembly on 4 October 2024.

## **Composition of the Network**

2. The Network shall be composed of:

2.1. In respect of the **46** member States of the Council of Europe: one member of parliament for each unicameral parliament, and one member of each Chamber for bicameral parliaments, appointed by the national parliament or chamber respectively.

2.2. In respect of the parliaments with Observer or Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: one member of parliament for each unicameral parliament, and one member of each Chamber for bicameral parliaments, appointed by the national parliament or chamber respectively.

2.3. One member each appointed by the following Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly:

- Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
- Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
- Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
- Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
- Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media
- Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

2.4. One associate member appointed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

3. The members of the Bureau of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the chairpersons of political groups and the immediate past President of the Assembly shall be ex officio members of the Network.

## **Working methods**

4. In terms of the application of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Network shall be assimilated to a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. All members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development shall be entitled to attend the Network's meetings.

5. The working languages of the Network shall be English and French.

**6. The Network shall elect its Chairperson and its Vice-Chairperson, who shall make up the Bureau. It shall renew its Bureau every two years during the Assembly's first part-session.**

**7. The Network shall adopt its work programme on an annual basis.**

**8. The Network shall facilitate synergy and consistency between the Assembly and other Council of Europe sectors involved in environmental work.**

9. The Network may co-operate with parliamentarians and national parliaments outside of Europe, as well as parliamentary networks and regional and international parliamentary assemblies.

**10.** The Network shall endeavour to limit its environmental impact so as to enhance its sustainability.

## **Funding**

**11. The Network's projects shall be funded with voluntary contributions from the member States.**