



SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2026) CB 01

26 January 2026

To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 26 January 2026

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday, 26 January 2026, in Strasbourg, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communication by the President; and held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **First part-session of 2026 (Strasbourg, 26-30 January):**
 - *Requests for debates under urgent procedure:* took note of requests to hold debates on:
 - *65th anniversary of the European Social Charter*, tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and to refer the matter to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development;
 - *Ensuring accountability, humanitarian protection and respect for international law in Gaza and the West Bank after the ceasefire*, tabled by the group of the Unified European Left: decided to transform this request into a current affairs debate, recommended to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) as the first speaker;
 - *Threats against the international order: the case of Greenland*, tabled by the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and to refer the matter to the Committee on political Affairs and Democracy for report;
 - *Bringing Democracy back to our Assembly: an urgent call to reform the election procedure of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly*, tabled by Victoria Tiblom (Sweden, ECPA) and 32 members of the Assembly: decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;
 - *Political crisis in the broader Middle East: need to protect human rights and the rights of all minority groups*, tabled by the leaders of political groups, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and to refer the matter to the Committee on political Affairs and Democracy for report.
 - *Request for a current affairs debate:* took note of a request to hold a debate on:
 - *Safeguarding the system of international justice*, tabled by the leaders of the five political groups: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Mr Tekke Panman (Netherlands, EPP/CD) as the first speaker.
 - *Draft agenda:* updated the draft agenda of the part-session;
 - *Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:* took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on the election of judges for the post of judges in respect of Cyprus and the Netherlands, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the Progress report (Doc. 16323 Add. 2).
 - *Joint Committee (Strasbourg, 29 January 2026):* prepared the meeting of the Joint Committee.
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (3 October 2025 – 25 January 2026)** (Rapporteur: Mr Iulian BULAI, Romania, ALDE): approved the Progress report (Doc. 16323).

- **References and transmissions to committees:** considered and approved the following references, subject to ratification by the Assembly:
 - *Comprehensive protection of children in rainbow families across Europe*, [Doc. 16299](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;
 - *Mainstreaming remembrance: preserving the historical memory of Roma and Travellers to counter Antigypsyism*, [Doc. 16300](#), Motion for a resolution : reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;
 - *Towards the universal abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances*, [Doc. 16301](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;
 - *Democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Iran*, [Doc. 16328](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*.
- **Election observation:**
 - *Kyrgyzstan: early parliamentary elections (30 November 2025)*: approved the observation report of the early parliamentary elections ([Doc. 16319](#));
 - *Assembly of Kosovo*: elections (28 December 2025)*: took note of the press release of the observation mission of 28 December 2025;
 - *Hungary: Parliamentary elections (12 April 2026)*: decided to observe this election and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 30 members (SOC-9; EPP/CD-8; EC/PA-6; ALDE-5; UEL-2), as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee, and to conduct a pre-electoral mission; and decided to launch a feasibility test to observe out-of-country voting (subject to receiving an invitation);
 - *Parliamentary Alliance for Free and Fair Elections: approved the list of members of the Parliamentary Alliance for Free and Fair Elections*: approved the list of members of the Alliance and the appointment of Lord Blencathra (United-Kingdom, ECPA), as its Chairperson (appendix 4);
 - *Joint hearing co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional authorities and the Venice Commission on “Securing the rights of observers for trusted and inclusive electoral processes (Paris, 28-29 April 2026), as a contribution to the New Democratic Pact”*: decided to set up an ad hoc committee to participate in the hearing with the following composition: the President of the Parliamentary Assembly ; the members of the Presidential committee ; the members of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Alliance for Free and Fair Elections and 5 other members of the Alliance; PACE members and substitutes of the Council for Democratic Elections ; PACE General rapporteur on Democracy ; PACE Rapporteur on *Elections in times of crisis* and PACE rapporteur on *The need to protect election observers*;
 - *Election observation activities of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2025*: took note of the Election observation activities report ([Doc. 16323 Add. 3](#)).
- **Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2026:** took note of the list of candidates for Vice-Presidents of the Assembly (appendix 1).
- **Modalities for the implementation of Assembly Resolution 2621 (2025) on Russian democratic forces:** approved the Memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly together with the General Rapporteur on the Russian democratic forces and approved the list of members of the Platform for Dialogue between the Assembly and Russian democratic forces, subject to ratification by the Assembly (Appendix 2).
- **Special Committee on New Democratic Pact:** took note of the Memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, decided to set up a special Committee on the New Democratic Pact and approved its terms of reference (Appendix 3).
- **Launch of the 2026 edition of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the press release of the launch of the 2026 edition of the Prize.
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee, the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs and the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:** on the basis of proposals by the political groups, nominated members of these three

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

committees and decided to submit them to the Assembly for ratification (Commissions (2026) 01 Addendum 1).

- **Resolution 1376 (2004) relating to Cyprus:** took note of the letters from the two Turkish Cypriot political parties informing the President of the Assembly of the names of the “elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community” entitled to sit in the Assembly in 2026, namely Mr Armağan Candan and Mr Hasan Taçoy, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report.
- **Resolution 2530 (2024) on a democratic future for Belarus:** took note of the letter by the Speaker of the Coordination Council of Belarus informing the President of the Assembly of the names of the members of the representative delegation of Belarusian democratic forces for the 2026 ordinary session and approved the list of the delegation, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report:

Members:

- Mr Pavel Latushka, Latushka Team and Movement for Freedom’ faction
- Ms Alexandra Mamaeva, ‘European Choice’ faction
- Ms Marharyta Vorykhava, ‘Youth Act’ faction

Substitutes:

- Mr Valery Matskevich, ‘European Choice’ faction
- Mr Pavel Tereshkovich, ‘Nasha Sprava//Belarusian Christian Democrats’ faction
- Ms Rita Gatichová, “Latushka Team and Movement for Freedom” faction

- **Date and place of next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting as follows:
Friday, 30 January 2026, 8.30 am, Strasbourg.

Isild Heurtin, Greta Faggiani

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary 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

Appendix 1 – Candidatures Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2024

GROUPS / GROUPE	COUNTRY / PAYS	CANDIDATURES
GROUP I / GROUPE I	France	Mr Bertrand BOUYX
	Germany / Allemagne	Mr Knut ABRAHAM
	Italy / Italie	Ms Elisabetta GARDINI
	Türkiye	Mr Yıldırım Tuğrul TÜRKEŞ
	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Lord Carwyn JONES
GROUP II / GROUPE II	Spain / Espagne	Mr Antonio GUITÉRREZ LIMONES
	Ukraine	Ms Mariia MEZENTSEVA-FEDORENKO
GROUP III / GROUPE III	Croatia / Croatie	Mr Marko PAVIĆ
	Czechia / Tchéquie	Ms Miroslava NĚMCOVÁ
	Denmark / Danemark	Mr Mogens JENSEN
	Finland / Finlande	Ms Miapetra KUMPULA-NATRI
	Georgia / Géorgie	Vacant seat / siège vacant
	Greece / Grèce	Ms Dora BAKOYANNIS
	Hungary / Hongrie	Ms Mónika BARTOS
	Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova	Mr Ion GROZA
GROUP IV / GROUPE IV	Armenia / Arménie	Mr Ruben RUBINYAN
	Cyprus / Chypre	Mr Nicos TORNARITIS
	Estonia / Estonie	Ms Kadri TALI
	Iceland / Islande	Mr Sigurður Helgi PÁLMASSON

Appendix 2 - List of members of the Platform for Dialogue between the Assembly and Russian democratic forces

1. Pursuant to [Resolution 2621 \(2025\)](#), the following composition is proposed to the Bureau for approval, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

Chair: President of the Assembly

Assembly members

- Chairpersons of the political groups (or their representatives):
 - Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC)
 - Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD)
 - Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, ECPA)
 - Mr Iulian Bulai (Romania, ALDE)
 - Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) / Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL)
- Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
- General rapporteurs:
 - Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), General Rapporteur on Russian democratic forces;
 - Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), General Rapporteur on Democracy;
 - Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC), General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance;
 - Ms Valentina Grippo (Italy, ALDE), General Rapporteur on Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists;
 - Ms Azadeh Rojhan (Sweden, SOC), General Rapporteur for Political Prisoners;
 - Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders and Whistleblowers.

Participants of the Russian democratic forces

- Ms Natalia Arno
- Mr Dmitri Gudkov
- Mr Mark Feygin
- Mr Vladimir Kara-Murza
- Mr Garry Kasparov
- Mr Mikhail Khodorkovsky
- Mr Oleg Orlov
- Ms Liubov Sobol
- Ms Nadya Tolokonnikova
- Mr Andrey Volna

Seats reserved for representatives of Indigenous peoples and national minorities:

- Mr Ruslan Kutayev
- Ms Ekaterina Kuznetsova
- Mr Vasili (Batlay) Matenov
- Ms Lana Pylayeva
- Mr Pavel Sulyandziga

Appendix 3 – Special Committee on the New Democratic Pact

2. Draft terms of reference of the special committee on the New Democratic Pact (AS/Pact) (81 seats + 5)

1. Title: Special committee on the New Democratic Pact (AS/Pact).
2. Duration: The special committee shall be established for a period of two years (1+1).
3. Role: The special committee shall be the Assembly's coordinating body and interface for its contribution to the preparation, implementation and promotion of the New Democratic Pact for Europe, leveraging on the dual (national and European) mandate of its members. It shall, in particular:
 - . act as a platform for reflection and foresight;
 - . provide the Assembly's input to the Pact;
 - . advance inter-parliamentary dialogue on the Pact, its tools and objectives;
 - . promote the Pact in national parliaments and at national level in different fora;
 - . as appropriate, represent the Assembly at high-level events connected to the Pact.

Specific tasks: The special committee may hold meetings in Strasbourg, Paris, and in a Council of Europe member States at the invitation of its relevant parliaments. On these occasions, it may hold hearings with a wide range of interlocutors.

The special committee may support events organised by its members in their national parliaments.

The special committee shall prepare a report on the New Democratic Pact to be debated by the Assembly and leading to the adoption of a resolution and/or recommendation. This report should be finalised by the end of the first year, or the second should the mandate be renewed.

4. Composition: The special committee shall be composed of representatives and alternates from each national delegation, in conformity with Rule 44.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. In conformity with Rule 44.8, candidatures for membership of the committees shall be addressed to the President of the Assembly, who shall submit to the Assembly, the Standing Committee or, failing that, the Bureau. Chairpersons of political groups will be as *ex officio members*.
5. Bureau: The special committee shall elect a Bureau consisting of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons from among its members, in accordance with Rule 46 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.
6. Languages: Meetings of the special committee will be held in English and French.
7. Financing: The activities of the special committee may be financed through the ordinary budget and voluntary contributions.

Appendix 4 –Parliamentary Alliance for Free and Fair Elections – List of members*

Chairperson / Président : Lord David BLENCATHRA, United Kingdom, ECPA / Royaume-Uni, CEPA

Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)

Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA	Norway / Norvège
Mr / M. Christophe CHAILLOU	France
Mr / M. Titus CORLATEAN	Romania / Roumanie
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE	Türkiye
Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA	Portugal
Mr / M. Antonio GUTIERREZ LIMONES	Spain / Espagne
Ms / Mme Marietta KARAMANLI	France
Ms / Mme Saskia KLUIT	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Ms / Mme Bisera KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
Ms / Mme Annick LAMBRECHT	Belgium / Belgique
Mr / M. Sasa MAGAZINOVIC	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine
Mr / M. Didier MARIE *	France
Mr / M. Fabian MOLINA	Switzerland / Suisse
Ms / Mme Wanda NOWICKA	Poland / Pologne
Ms / Mme Kate OSAMOR	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
Mr / M. George PAPANDREOU	Greece / Grèce
Mr / M. Ivan RACAN	Croatia / Croatie
Mr / M. Namik TAN	Türkiye
Mr / M. Francesco VERDUCCI	Italy / Italy

Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)

Mr / M. Christophe BRICO	Monaco
Ms / Mme Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER	Austria / Autriche
Ms / Mme Arusyak JULHAKYAN	Armenia / Arménie
Mr / M. Yuriy KAMELCHUK	Ukraine
Mr / M. Jan Filip LIBICKI	Poland / Pologne
Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚĂGÂRLAȘ	Romania / Roumanie
Mr / M. Tekke PANMAN	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Ms / Mme Catia POLIDORI	Italy / Italie
Mr / M. Chris SAID	Malta / Malte
Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS	Greece / Grèce
Ms / M. Maria SYRENGELA	Greece / Grèce
Mr / M. Nicos TORNARITIS	Cyprus / Chypre
Ms / Mme Albana VOKSHI	Albania / Albanie

European Conservatives, Patriots & Affiliates (ECPA) / Conservateurs européens, Patriotes et Affiliés (CEPA)

Lord David BLENCATHRA*	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
Mr / M. Armen GEVORGYAN	Armenia / Arménie
Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO	Ukraine
Mr / M. Martin GRAF	Austria / Autriche
Mr / M. Jan KANTHAK	Poland / Pologne
Mr / M. Axel KASSEGGER	Austria / Autriche
Mr / M. Malte KAUFMANN	Germany / Allemagne
Mr / M. Daniel MILEWSKI	Poland / Pologne
Mr / M. Kacper Maciej PŁAŻYŃSKI	Poland / Pologne
Mr / M. José María SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA	Spain / Espagne
Ms / Mme Victoria TIBLOM	Sweden / Suède
Mr / M. Markus WIECHEL	Sweden / Suède

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) / Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe (ADLE)

Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN	Türkiye
Ms / Mme Larysa BILOZIR	Ukraine
Mr / M. François BONNEAU	France
Mr / M. Damien COTTIER	Switzerland / Suisse
Mr / M. Stephen GETHINS	United Kingdom / Royaume Uni
Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO	Italy / Italie
Mr / M. Claude KERN*	France
Ms / Mme Yevheniia KRAVCHUK	Ukraine
Mr / M. Eerik KROSS	Estonia / Estonie
Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA	Lithuania / Lituanie
Mr / M. Dominik OBERHAUSER	Austria / Autriche
Mr / M. Dean PREMIK	Slovenia / Slovénie
Ms / Mme Elena Simona SPATARU	Romania / Roumanie
Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY	France
Mr / M. Kim VALENTIN	Denmark / Danemark
Ms / Mme Lesia VASYLENKO	Ukraine
Ms / Mme Rian VOGELS	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Ms / Mme Lesia ZABURANNA	Ukraine

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)

Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL	Spain / Espagne
Ms / Mme Sevilay ÇELENK*	Türkiye
Mr / M. George LOUCAIDES	Cyprus / Chypre

Non-registered PACE members / Membres APCE non-inscrit·e·s

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Ex officio members / Membres ex officio

PACE President/ Présidente de l'APCE	Ms / Mme Petra BAYR	Austria / Autriche
POL	Ms / Mme Elisabetta GARDINI	Italy / Italie
JUR	Mr / M. Eerik-Niiles KROSS	Estonia / Estonie
MON	Ms / Mme Elvira KOVACS	Serbia / Serbie
SOC	Mr / M. Frank SCHWABE	Germany / Allemagne
EPP/CD / PPE/DC	Mr / M. Pablo HISPÁN	Spain / Espagne
ECPA / CEPA	Mr / M. Zsolt NÉMETH	Hungary / Hongrie
ALDE / ADLE	Mr / M. Iulian BULAI	Romania / Roumanie
UEL / GUE	Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL	Spain / Espagne
	Mr / Mr George LOUCAIDES	Cyprus / Chypre
General Rapporteur on Democracy / Rapporteur Général sur la Démocratie	Mr / M. George PAPANDREOU	Greece / Grèce

PACE members and
substitutes to the Council
of Democratic Elections /

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Membres et suppléant.es		
de l'APCE du Conseil des		
Elections Démocratiques		
		
		

Partners for Democracy and Observers / Partenaires pour la Démocratie et Observateurs

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Congress of Local and Regional Authorities / Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux

Mr / M. Stewart DICKSON

United Kindgom / Royaume-Uni

Venice Commission / Commission de Venise

Mr / M. Srdjan DARMANOVIC

Montenegro / Monténégro

* Bureau member appointed by the political group / Membre du Bureau désigné.e par le groupe politique

