



SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2025) CB 02

7 March 2025

## To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 5 March 2025

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 5 March 2025, with Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Draft agenda:** following a vote, agreed to remove the item “*Request for special guest status by the Assembly of Kosovo\** - Consultation on the request, in accordance with Rule 62.3 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure”, to be discussed at a later meeting;
- **Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America** (*rapporteur: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones, Spain, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe** (*rapporteur: Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, as amended;
- **Interconnections between the Council of Europe and the European political community** (*rapporteur: Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, ECPA)*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence** (*rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the online participation of Mr Daniel Innerarity, Chair in AI & Democracy, School of Transnational Governance (STG), European University Institute, followed by an exchange of views, and considered an outline report;
- **Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
- **A closer cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the United States Congress** (*rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC)*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
- **Russian democratic forces** (*rapporteur: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Dmitry Gudkov, Founder of the Center for Analysis and Strategies in Europe (CASE), member of the Russian Antiwar Committee, and Mr Dmitry Nekrasov, Co-Founder and Director of CASE, Economist, followed by an exchange of views, and considered an outline report;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans:** approved the change as highlighted in bold in the Appendix;
- **Work programme:**
  - **Invitation to hold a meeting in Chania, Crete, Greece on 26-27 May 2025:** took note of, and welcomed, the invitation of the Chairperson of the Greek delegation to the Assembly and

---

\* 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.

decided to hold its meeting in Chania, Crete, Greece, on 26-27 May 2025 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly);

- **Reply by the Committee of Ministers:** considered the Committee of Ministers' reply to Recommendation 2281 (2024) on "Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future: the question of just and equal redress";
- **Reporting back on participation in meetings:** heard:
  - the Chair reading out a statement on behalf of Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) about her participation in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, in Paris, from 5 to 7 February 2025;
  - Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) about his participation in the Summit for Action on AI, in Paris, on 10 and 11 February 2025, and in the Munich Security Conference, from 14 to 16 February 2025;
- **Declaration of interest:** heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest from Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL), rapporteur on "Strengthening freedom of expression: an imperative for the consolidation and development of democratic societies";
- **Appointment of Committee representatives:** appointed:
  - Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) to sit on the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the parliamentary conference on "Envisioning effective public policy to prevent & address cases of missing migrants", in Strasbourg, on 23-24 April 2025;
  - Mr Ingjerd Schie Schou (Norway, EPP/CD) as a member and Mr Stephen Gethins (United Kingdom, NR) as a substitute, to sit on the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the meeting between parliamentarians from the Nordic Council and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in Kristiansand, Norway, on 4-5 May 2025;
- **Authorisation by the Committee:** authorised Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), general rapporteur on democracy, to participate in the meeting of Directors of Policy Planning of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Council of Europe Member States and Permanent Observers, in Strasbourg, on 30 June-1 July 2025 (at no cost for the Assembly);
- **Next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:
  - April part-session (7-11 April 2025), Strasbourg
  - 26-27 May 2025, Chania, Crete (Greece) (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau)
  - June part-session (23-27 June 2025), Strasbourg
  - 10 September 2025, Paris
  - October part-session (29 September-3 October 2025), Strasbourg
  - 11 December 2025, Paris

Catherine Hugel, 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

## APPENDIX

**Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans**  
**of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur les Balkans occidentaux**  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

27 seats / 27 sièges

## LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

**Chairperson / Président**

Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)

Greece / Grèce

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e**

• • • • •

### **Full Members / Membres titulaires**

**Alternates / Remplacant-e-s**

- |     |   |                                     |                                  |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.  | Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)          | Armenia / Arménie                   |                                  |
| 2.  | M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)                 | Belgium / Belgique                  | Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (NR) |
| 3.  | Ms SACHEVA Denitsa (EPP/CD)             | Bulgaria / Bulgarie                 |                                  |
| 4.  | <b>Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)</b> | Denmark / Danemark                  |                                  |
| 5.  | Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)            | France                              | M. CADEC Alain (EPP/CD)          |
| 6.  | Mme TANGUY Liliana (ALDE)               | France                              | M. Didier MARIE (France, SOC)    |
| 7.  | Mr SCHÄFER Axel (SOC)                   | Germany / Allemagne                 |                                  |
| 8.  | Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)                 | Greece / Grèce                      | Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)       |
| 9.  | Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)                   | Ireland / Irlande                   |                                  |
| 10. | Mr DREOSTO Marco (ECPA)                 | Italy / Italie                      | Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)           |
| 11. | Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (ECPA)            | Italy / Italie                      |                                  |
| 12. | Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)                  | Luxembourg                          | Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)            |
| 13. | Ms VOGELS Rian (ALDE)                   | Netherlands / Pays-Bas              |                                  |
| 14. | Ms PETRUSHEVSKA Marija (EPP/CD)         | North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord |                                  |
| 15. | Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)                  | Malta / Malte                       |                                  |
| 16. | Ms LAKOVIĆ Nađa (ALDE)                  | Montenegro / Monténégro             | Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)           |
| 17. | Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)           | Poland / Pologne                    |                                  |
| 18. | Mr CARVALHO Ricardo (EPP/CD)            | Portugal                            |                                  |
| 19. | Mr MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus (ECPA)          | Romania / Roumanie                  | Ms MITREA Dumitrina,(ECPA)       |
| 20. | Ms SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ Dunja (SOC)         | Serbia / Serbie                     | Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)        |
| 21. | Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)      | Spain / Espagne                     |                                  |
| 22. | Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (EPP/CD)      | Switzerland / Suisse                | Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)            |
| 23. | Mr TAN Namık (SOC)                      | Türkiye                             | Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)     |
| 24. | Mr GETHINS Stephen (NR)                 | United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni        | Lord BLENCATHRA David (ECPA)     |
| 25. |   |                                     |                                  |
| 26. |   |                                     |                                  |
| 27. |   |                                     |                                  |

*Ex officio:* M. Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE)

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy  
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie