



SECRETARIAT

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18 March 2026

To the members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 16 March 2026

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 16 March 2026, with Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Towards the universal abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances*** (*rapporteur: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- ***Abolition of the death penalty: current global trends and situation in Israel and Japan*** (*General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Nicolas Perron, Program Director, Together against the death penalty, Paris; Prof. Ron Dudai, Ben Gurion University (Israel), associate researcher, Death Penalty Research Unit, Oxford University, Visiting Fellow at Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, Queen's University, Belfast (United Kingdom); and Ms Tracey Cui, Center for Prisoners' Rights (CPR), Japan (online);
- ***Threats to the International Criminal Court*** (*rapporteur: Mr Tekke Panman, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with Judge Nicolas Guillou and Mr Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar, both of the International Criminal Court, The Hague;
- ***Accountability for the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine*** (*rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Ms Iryna Mudra, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, and Mr Arjen Uijterlinde, Special Envoy for the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands (online);
- ***Justice delayed: the unfinished implementation of the Daphne Caruana Galizia case*** (*rapporteur: Baroness Shami Chakrabarti, United Kingdom, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum, agreed to the rapporteur's request to declassify her introductory memorandum and authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Malta, subject to the availability of funds;
- ***Network of Parliamentarians to Promote the Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights***: was informed that, following the approval of the terms of reference by the Bureau and subject to their ratification by the Assembly, a call for candidatures would be made, with a view to holding the first meeting of the network during the second part-session of 2026;
- ***Fighting back against transnational repression*** (*rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC*): took note of the rapporteur's upcoming meeting with a representative of the U.S. Department of State, and agreed to the rapporteur's request to carry out a fact-finding visit to Washington DC (4-5 May 2026), subject to authorisation by the Bureau and to the availability of funds;

- **Work programme:**
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs:** appointed, by acclamation:
 - Mr Constantinios Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC) as rapporteur on the “Statutory opinion on the draft additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime and on the financing of terrorism” (subject to reference to the committee for opinion under the urgent procedure), subject to the completion of the obligation to update his declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) as rapporteur on “The enforced disappearance of newborns, infants and children”, subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - Ms Gökçe Gökçen (Türkiye, SOC) as rapporteur on “Protecting the freedom of expression of members of parliaments”, subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - **Reference to be taken into account:** took note of the reference “Safeguarding the system of international justice” to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Threats to the International Criminal Court”;
- **Youth Rapporteur (Assembly Resolution 2553 “Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly”):** appointed, by acclamation, Ms Zeynep Yıldız (Türkiye, NR) as Youth Rapporteur, subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:** in the framework of the Assembly's institutional representation, agreed to propose to the Bureau that Ms Arusyak Julhakyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) be appointed to represent the committee at meetings of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO);
- **Reporting back on participation in meetings:** heard statements from:
 - Ms Nadejda Iordanova (Bulgaria, NR) about her participation in the 70th Plenary meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), Strasbourg, 15-18 December 2025;
 - Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) about his participation in the 86th meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe, Venice (Italy), 5 March 2026;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2026:** noted the deadline of 30 April 2026 for nominations and that details were available on the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#);
- **Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment:** noted the deadline of 27 March 2026 for nominations and that details were available on the [Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment website](#);
- **Other business:** agreed to request to the Bureau that the committee be seized for opinion on the report on “Democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Iran” (*rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Max Lucks, Germany, SOC*);
- **Meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in Tallinn, 26-27 May 2026:** took note of the preliminary draft programme and the practical information;

— **Next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:

- during the Assembly's second part-session of 2026 (20-24 April 2026)
- 26-27 May 2026, Tallinn
- during the Assembly's third part-session of 2026 (22-26 June 2026)
- 9 September 2026, Paris Office (tbc)
- during the Assembly's fourth part-session of 2026 (28 September – 2 October 2026)
- 9 December 2026, Paris Office (tbc)

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Guillem Cano Palomares, George Stafford, Rafał Sokół, Apolline Paillat

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
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe