

SECRETARIAT

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27 April 2026

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 20, 21, 22 and 23 April 2026

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 20-23 April 2026, with Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- on Monday 20 April 2026 at 2pm, as regards:
 - **Presentation of the Network of Parliamentarians to Promote the Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights:** held an exchange of views with Ms Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Mr Gianluca Esposito, Director General Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe; Judge María Elósegui, European Court of Human Rights, and Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights”;
- on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 8.30am, as regards:
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: 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** (rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC): considered and unanimously adopted a draft opinion;
 - **Towards the universal abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances** (rapporteur: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC): considered and unanimously approved four amendments proposed by the rapporteur, and agreed to table them as committee amendments under Rule 34.1;
 - **Chişinău political declaration on the European Convention on Human Rights:** considered and unanimously adopted a declaration as amended;
 - **European Convention on Human Rights: 75 years and beyond** (rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum;
- on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 2pm, as regards:
 - **Updating the Venice Commission’s Rule of Law Checklist: a contribution by the Assembly** (rapporteur: Ms Arusyak Julhakyan, Armenia, EPP/CD): considered and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
 - **Fighting back against transnational repression** (rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC): heard an oral report by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to INTERPOL (Lyon, France), 13 March 2026;

- **Work programme:**
 - **Call for candidatures for rapporteurs for report:** made a call for rapporteur, to be appointed at the next meeting on “The need to modernise International Humanitarian Law”;
 - **Reference to be taken into account:** took note of the reference “Safeguarding international justice from transnational repression” to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Fighting back against transnational repression”;
- **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Black Sea Security Forum, Odesa, Ukraine, 29-31 May 2026:** appointed by acclamation Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC), Mr Ivan Račan (Croatia, SOC) and Mr Roberto Speranza (Italy, SOC) to sit on the *ad hoc* committee;
- **Gender equality in the functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2025:** took note of the activity report of the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 2.45pm, as regards:**
 - **Joint meeting with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee):** held a hearing on allegations about human rights violations during the 2024/2025 demonstrations in Georgia and the lack of effective investigations into such allegations, with the participation of Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Mr Alan Mitchell, President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) (online), and Mr Borys Wódz, Head of Division, Secretariat of the CPT;
- **on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 2pm, as regards:**
 - **Towards the universal abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances (rapporteur: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC):** took position on seven amendments and two sub-amendments tabled to the draft resolution and decided to support one oral sub-amendment to the draft resolution;
 - **Tracking the proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky and holding its perpetrators accountable (rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE):** took position on five amendments tabled to the draft resolution and decided to support one oral sub-amendment to the draft resolution;
 - **Corruption as a threat to democracy and the rule of law in Europe: the emergency of the situation in Spain (rapporteur: Mr Tekke Panman, Netherlands, EPP/CD):** heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Committee and the Chairperson of the Spanish delegation to the Assembly, Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), regarding the unauthorised disclosure of a restricted document to the Spanish media, and the need to respect the Code of Conduct for members of the Assembly, in particular paragraph 13; considered an introductory memorandum and, following a vote, decided to change the title of the report to “Corruption as a threat to democracy and the rule of law in Europe”;
 - **Threats to the International Criminal Court (rapporteur: Mr Tekke Panman, Netherlands, EPP/CD):** heard an oral report by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visits to the Hague, 27-28 November 2025 and 25 March 2026;
- **On Thursday 23 April 2026 at 9am, as regards:**
 - **Ensuring better protection of whistle-blowers in Europe (rapporteur: Ms Anna-Kristiina Mikkonen, Finland, SOC, General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD):** held a hearing with the participation of Mr Amar Benmohamed, whistle-blower;

- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2026:** made a call for nominations, noted the deadline of 30 April 2026 and that details are available on the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#);
- **Other business:**
 - agreed to authorise the General Rapporteur on the abolition of the Death Penalty to attend the 9th World Congress against the Death Penalty, Paris, 30 June to 2 July 2026;
 - agreed to request the Bureau to set up an *ad hoc* committee to attend the 9th World Congress against the Death Penalty, Paris, 30 June to 2 July 2026;
- **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:
 - 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