



SECRETARIAT

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2 June 2026

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Tallinn on 26 and 27 May 2026

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Tallinn on 26 and 27 May 2026, with Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, and with the participation of Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly:

- on Tuesday 26 May 2026, as regards:
 - **Welcome addresses:** heard welcome addresses from Mr Lauri Hussar, President of the Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu), and Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
 - **Exchange of views with Ms Liisa Ly Pakosta, Minister of Justice and Digital Affairs:** heard a statement from the Minister, followed by an exchange of views;
 - **Fighting back against transnational repression** (*rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC*): heard an oral report by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Washington DC (4-5 May 2026); considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution, as amended, and a draft recommendation;
 - **Threats to the International Criminal Court** (*rapporteur: Mr Tekke Panman, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): considered and unanimously adopted a declaration;
 - **Accountability for the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Aarif Abraham, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers, London (Co-Counsel to the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine), Mr Yevhenii Malik, Head of National Security and Defence Programs, Kyiv School of Economics, former prisoner of war captured in Mariupol, and Mr Kostyantyn Davidenko, Charitable Foundation "Civilians in captivity", Kyiv;
 - **Use of artificial intelligence by parliaments: risks and opportunities** (*rapporteur: Mr Daniel Milewski, Poland, ECPA*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Antero Habicht, Secretary General of the Riigikogu, and Ms Kristel Kriisa, AI Advisor and Early-Stage Researcher, Tallinn University of Technology;
 - **Abolition of the death penalty: situation in Israel** (*General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC*): heard a statement from the General Rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;
 - **Corruption as a threat to democracy and the rule of law in Europe** (*rapporteur: Mr Tekke Panman, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Spain and Hungary, subject to the availability of funds;

— **Work programme:**

- **Appointment of a rapporteur for report:** appointed, by acclamation, Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA) as rapporteur on “The need to modernise International Humanitarian Law”, subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - **Appointment of a rapporteur for opinion:** appointed, by acclamation, Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on “Democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Iran” subject to the completion of the obligation to update his declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - **Call for candidates for report:** made a call for rapporteur, to be appointed at the next meeting, on “Strengthening safeguards against the misuse of dual-use goods by authoritarian regimes”;
- **General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers:** made a call for candidates for the position of General Rapporteur, to be appointed at the next meeting;
- **OECD Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence, Paris, 11-12 June 2026:** appointed the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Ms Belén Hoyo (Spain, EPP/CD), to participate in this meeting;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the 9th World Congress against the Death Penalty, Paris, 30 June to 2 July 2026:** appointed Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), Ms Zeynep Yıldız (Türkiye, NR) and Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) to sit on the *ad hoc* committee;
- **on Wednesday 27 May 2026, as regards:**
- **Meeting with Mr Kristen Michal, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia:** heard a statement by the Prime Minister, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan (rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC):** agreed to change the title of the report to *Silencing critical voices in Azerbaijan*, considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Safeguarding human rights in the artificial intelligence-driven public sector (rapporteur: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC):** held a hearing with the participation of Mr Mario Hernández Ramos, Chair of the Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies of the Council of Europe (CDNET);
- **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (rapporteur: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko, Ukraine, EPP/CD):** held a hearing with the participation of Dr Ramute Remezaite, Senior Consultant and Implementation Lead at the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre, Vice Chair of the European Implementation Network;
- **Protecting the freedom of expression of members of parliaments (rapporteur: Ms Gökçe Gökçen, Türkiye, SOC):** considered an introductory memorandum, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Reporting back on participation in meetings:** heard a statement from:
- Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC) about his participation in the 145th Session of the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (“Venice Commission”), Venice (Italy), 12-13 December 2025;

- **Next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:
- during the Assembly's third part-session of 2026 (22-26 June 2026)
 - 9 September 2026, Paris Office
 - during the Assembly's fourth part-session of 2026 (28 September – 2 October 2026)
 - 9 December 2026, Paris Office

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