



SECRETARIAT

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2 February 2026

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 26-29 January 2026

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 26-29 January 2026, with first Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, ECPA), oldest member present, then with Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- on Monday 26 January 2026 at 2pm, as regards:
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:** elected, by acclamation:
 - Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), Chairperson,
 - Mr Gustaf Göthberg (Sweden, EPP/CD), 1st Vice-Chairperson,
 - Mr Tony Vaughan (United Kingdom, SOC), 2nd Vice-Chairperson,
 - Mr Daniel Milewski (Poland, ECPA), 3rd Vice-Chairperson;
 - **Constitution of Sub-Committees:** reconstituted the following sub-committees for 2026:
 - i. Sub-Committee on Human Rights
 - ii. Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights
 - **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:** in the framework of the Assembly's institutional representation, agreed to propose to the Bureau that the following members and substitutes be appointed to represent the Committee at meetings of the following bodies in 2026:
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission")**
 - Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) - Member
 - Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, ECPA) - Substitute
 - Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe**
 - Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) - Member
 - Ms Bisera Kostadinovska-Stojchevska (North Macedonia, SOC) - Substitute
 - Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)**
 - to be appointed - Member
 - Ms Oana Murariu (Romania, ALDE) - Substitute
 - Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL)**
 - Ms Nadejda Iordanova (Bulgaria, NR) - Member
 - Ms Atidzhe Alieva-Veli (Bulgaria, ECPA) - Substitute
- **European Convention on Human Rights: 75 years and beyond:** (*rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;

- **Use of artificial intelligence by parliaments: risks and opportunities** (*rapporteur: Mr Daniel Milewski, Poland, ECPA*): agreed to the rapporteur's request to declassify his introductory memorandum;
- **Work programme:**
 - **Appointment of a rapporteur:** appointed, by acclamation, Ms Gala Veldhoen (Netherlands, SOC) as rapporteur on "*Towards the universal abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances*" subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - **Call for candidates for rapporteurs:** called for candidates for the following:
 - *Statutory opinion on the draft 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 the request from the Committee of Ministers and reference to the committee for opinion);
 - *The enforced disappearance of newborns, infants and children;*
 - *Protecting the freedom of expression of members of parliaments;*
 - **Reference extension request:** "*Ensuring better protection of whistle-blowers in Europe*" (*rapporteur: Ms Anna-Kristiina Mikkonen (Finland, SOC)*): agreed to make a request to the Bureau for an extension until 31 January 2027;
- **Youth Rapporteur (Assembly Resolution 2553 "Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly"):** made a call for candidates;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter, Chişinău, 18-19 March 2026:** asked members to notify the secretariat of their interest;
- **Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport:** appointed Ms Agnes Sirkka Prammer (Austria, SOC) to participate in the alliance;
- **Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine:** confirmed the appointment of Ms Bisera Kostadinovska-Stojchevska (North Macedonia, SOC), and appointed Mr Jone Blikra (Norway, SOC) and Mr Gustaf Göthberg (Sweden, EPP/CD) to participate in the network;
- **on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 9.15am,** as regards:
 - **Composition of the sub-committees:** approved the composition of the sub-committees as in the attached appendix;¹
 - **Exchange of views 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:** held an exchange of views with Mr Cornel Virgiliu Calinescu, President of the Committee of Experts on Criminal Asset Recovery (PC-RAC);

¹ Subsequent proposals received later than 27 January 2026 are also included in the appendix.

- on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 2pm, as regards:
 - ***Proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky found in Switzerland must not be returned to the presumed perpetrators*** (rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE): held an exchange of views with Sir William Browder, CEO Hermitage Capital Management, Head of the Global Magnitsky Justice Campaign;
 - ***Proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky found in Switzerland must not be returned to the presumed perpetrators*** (rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE): agreed to change the title of the report to *Tracking the proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky and holding its perpetrators accountable*, considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- on Wednesday 28 January 2026 at 2.10pm, as regards:
 - ***Draft terms of reference for the Network of parliamentarians to promote the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights***: approved the draft terms of reference as amended and agreed to transmit them to the Bureau for approval;
 - ***Accountability for the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine*** (rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum, agreed to hold two hearings with experts and authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to the Hague and to Kyiv, subject to the availability of funds;
 - ***Updating the Venice Commission Rule of Law Checklist: a contribution by the Assembly*** (rapporteur: Ms Arusyak Julhakyan, Armenia, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
 - ***Fighting back against transnational repression*** (rapporteur: Mr Constantin Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC): authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Lyon (France), subject to the availability of funds;
 - ***Invitation to hold a meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (Tallinn, 26-27 May 2026)***: took note of, and welcomed, the invitation of the Chairperson of the Estonian delegation and agreed to hold a meeting of the committee in Tallinn on 26 and 27 May 2026 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - ***Sub-Committee on Human Rights***: took note of an oral report by the Chairperson of the sub-committee of the meeting held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 and endorsed by acclamation the proposal of the sub-committee concerning the list of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the delegation of Hungary;
 - ***Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, Paris, 11–13 March 2026***: appointed Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) to sit on the *ad hoc* committee;
 - ***Reporting back on participation in meetings***: heard a statement from Ms Arusyak Julhakyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) about her participation in the 101st plenary meeting of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Strasbourg, 18-21 November 2025;
 - ***Replies by the Committee of Ministers***: considered the replies by the Committee of Ministers to the following recommendations:
 - Reply adopted at the 1546th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 10 December 2025 to Recommendation 2289 (2025) on "Addressing risks to human rights and the rule of law posed by mercenaries and private military and security companies: a call for comprehensive regulation";
 - Reply adopted at the 1546th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 10 December 2025 to Recommendations 2285 (2024) "Missing persons, prisoners of war and civilians in captivity

as a result of the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine” and 2294 (2025) “Russian war of aggression against Ukraine: the need to ensure accountability and avoid impunity”;

- **on Thursday 29 January 2026 at 2.00pm**, as regards:
 - **Exchange of views with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**: held an exchange of views with Dr Michael O’Flaherty, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
 - **How to ensure that the Russian Federation implements the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, including paying the compensation awarded** (*rapporteur*: Mr Tony Vaughan, United Kingdom, SOC): took note of the rapporteur’s upcoming meetings in London;
 - **The need to modernise International Humanitarian Law** (*rapporteur*: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan, Armenia, EPP/CD): authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva (Switzerland), subject to the availability of funds;
 - **Reporting back on participation in meetings**: heard statements from:
 - Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) about his participation in the 85th meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections, Venice (Italy), 11 December 2025;
 - Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) about his participation in the Diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine, The Hague, 16 December 2025;
 - **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](#);
 - **Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment**: made a call for nominations, noted the deadline of 27 March 2026 and that details are available on the [Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment website](#);
 - **Other business**:
 - agreed to submit a request to hold an exhibition on the death penalty during the second part-session of 2026 of the Assembly;
 - **Next meetings**: took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:
 - 16 March 2026, Paris Office
 - during the Assembly’s second part-session of 2026 (20-24 April 2026)
 - 26-27 May 2026, Tallinn (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly)
 - 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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The **Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 3.10pm, with Mr Christophe Chaillou (France, SOC), oldest member present in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Chairperson:** elected, by acclamation, Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC) Chairperson;

Then with Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Vice-Chairperson:** elected, by acclamation, Ms Arusyak Julhakyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) Vice-Chairperson;
- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** considered the list of candidates to the CPT in respect of Hungary;
- **Next meeting:** during the 2nd part-session of the Assembly (20-27 April 2026).

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The **Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 28 January 2026 at 2pm, with Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), oldest member present in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Chairperson:** elected, following a vote, Ms Belén Hoyo (Spain, EPP/CD) Chairperson;

Then with Ms Belén Hoyo (Spain, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Vice-Chairperson:** elected, following a vote, Mr Ivan Račan (Croatia, SOC) Vice-Chairperson;
- **Next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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Guillem Cano Palomares, George Stafford, Rafał Sokół

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

Appendix

Sub-Committee on Human Rights
(26 seats)

List of members

Chairperson: Ms Wanda NOWICKA

Vice-Chairperson: Ms Arusyak JULHAKYAN

Full members

Alternates

1.	Ms JULHAKYAN Arusyak	Armenia	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir
2.	Ms PRAMMER Agnes Sirkka	Austria	
3.	Ms DURENNE Véronique	Belgium	Mr LACROIX Christophe
4.	Ms MIKKONEN Anna-Kristiina	Finland	
5.	Mr BITZ Olivier	France	
6.	Ms CATHALA Gabrielle	France	
7.	Mr CHAILLOU Christophe	France	
8.	Ms BÖTTGER Janina	Germany	Mr COßE Jürgen
9.	Mr MANTZOS Dimitrios	Greece	Ms KANELLI Liana
10.	Ms COLLINS Joanne	Ireland	
11.	Mr ANTONIOZZI Alfredo	Italy	
12.	Ms SPINELLI Domenica	Italy	
13.	Ms MODERTO Octavie	Luxembourg	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves
14.	Ms PASQUIER-CIULLA Christine	Monaco	
15.	Ms KOSTADINOVSKA STOJCHEVSKA Bisera	North Macedonia	
16.	Ms NOWICKA Wanda	Poland	
17.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus	Romania	Ms MURARIU Oana
18.	Mr MIRKOVIĆ Aleksandar	Serbia	
19.	Mr LAMUÀ Marc	Spain	
20.	Ms ARSLAN Sibel	Switzerland	Mr GERMANN Hannes
21.	Ms GÖREN Seda	Türkiye	Ms GÖKA Meryem
22.	Mr GONCHARENKO Oleksii	Ukraine	Ms KHOMENKO Olena
23.	Mr VASYLENKO Lesia	Ukraine	Mr MERZHKO Oleksandr
24.	Sir CHOPE Christopher	United Kingdom	
25.	...		
26.	...		

ex officio: Chairperson of AS/Jur: Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS (Estonia, ALDE)

Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights
(26 seats)

List of members

Chairperson: Ms Belén HOYO

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Ivan RAČAN

<u>Full members</u>				<u>Alternates</u>
1.	Mr	VARDANYAN Vladimir	Armenia	Ms JULHAKYAN Arusyak
2.	Mr	LACROIX Christophe	Belgium	Mr MICHEL Mathieu
3.	Mr	MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša	Bosnia and Herzegovina	
4.	Ms	IORANOVA, Nadejda	Bulgaria	
5.	Mr	RAČAN Ivan	Croatia	
6.	Mr	EFSTATHIOU Constantinos	Cyprus	
7.	Ms	FERCIKOVA KONECNA Irena	Czechia	
8.	Mr	RYLE Alexander	Denmark	Ms REISSMANN Mette
9.	Ms	KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra	Finland	
10.	Ms	MOREL Louise	France	
11.	Mr	VOLKMANN Johannes	Germany	Ms KEMPF Martina
12.	Mr	STYLIANIDIS Evripidis	Greece	Ms KANELLI Liana
13.	Ms	STEPHENSON Patricia	Ireland	
14.	Mr	SPERANZA Roberto	Italy	
15.	Mr	CRUCHTEN Yves	Luxembourg	
16.	Mr	CHEPTONAR Andrian	Republic of Moldova	Ms ROȘCA Veronica
17.	Mr	CAMAJ Nikolla	Montenegro	
18.	Ms	VELDHOEN Gala	Netherlands	Mr PANMAN Tekke
19.	Mr	MILEWSKI Daniel	Poland	
20.	Mr	NICULESCU ȚĂGÂRLAȘ Cristian Augustin	Romania	Mr RĂDUCANU Sebastian
21.	Ms	PLAVAKOVA Lucia	Slovak Republic	
22.	Ms	HOYO Belén	Spain	
23.	Ms	TIBLOM Victoria	Sweden	
24.	Mr	COTTIER Damien	Switzerland	Ms ROTH Franziska
25.	Ms	YILDIZ Zeynep	Türkiye	Ms GÖKÇEN Gökçe
26.	Ms	KHOMENKO Olena	Ukraine	Ms VASYLENKO Lesia

ex officio: Chairperson of AS/Jur: Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS (Estonia, ALDE)