



SECRETARIAT

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4 February 2026

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 26 to 29 January 2026

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 26 to 29 January 2026, with first Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), oldest member present, then Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA), Chairperson, and Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE), third Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 26 January 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - ***Election of the Bureau of the Committee:***

elected, by acclamation:

 - Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA), Chairperson,
 - Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), 1st Vice-Chairperson,
 - Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD), 2nd Vice-Chairperson,
 - Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE), 3rd Vice-Chairperson;
 - ***Constitution of Sub-Committees:*** reconstituted the Sub-Committee on External Relations, the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, and the Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans;
 - ***Debate under urgent procedure on Threats against the international order: the case of Greenland:*** appointed Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE) as rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - ***Debate under urgent procedure on Political crises in the broader Middle East: need to protect human rights and the rights of all minority groups:*** appointed Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) as rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - ***Supporting the commitment to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine and the security of the European continent (rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC):*** considered and approved a draft addendum to the report as amended;
 - ***Strengthening democracies with young people: from participation to shared responsibility (rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Sona Ghazaryan, Armenia, ALDE; rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, ECPA):*** considered and unanimously approved a draft opinion;
 - ***Situation in the Middle East (rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD):*** held a hearing with the participation of Mr Christophe Bigot, EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, followed by an exchange of views;
 - ***Standing invitations:*** decided, in accordance with Resolution 1376 (2004) and following the decision of the Bureau of the Assembly of 4 October 2004 approved the same day by the Assembly, and according to Article 48.7 of the Rules of Procedure, to invite the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend its meetings during the Assembly 2026 Ordinary Session; also decided, in accordance with Resolution 2530 (2024), that the representative delegation of Belarusian democratic forces attending its meetings during the Assembly 2026 Ordinary Session would have the right to speak;

- **on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 8:30**, as regards:
 - **Threats against the international order: the case of Greenland** (*rapporteur: Mr Bertrand Bouyx, France, ALDE*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Supporting the commitment to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine and the security of the European continent** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): took position on 23 amendments to the draft resolution, and decided to support 4 oral sub-amendments;
 - **Elections in times of crisis** (*rapporteur: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE*): took position on 1 amendment to the draft resolution;
 - **Resolution 2621 (2025) “Russian Democratic Forces”** (*General Rapporteur and rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE*): took note of the memorandum by the Secretary General of the Assembly and the General Rapporteur on Russian democratic forces;

- **on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - **Political crisis in the broader Middle East: need to protect human rights and the rights of all minority groups** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
 - **Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence** (*rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment**: appointed Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR) to participate in the Network;
 - **Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine**: appointed Mr Richard Baker (United Kingdom, SOC), Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR) and Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) to participate in the Network;

- **on Wednesday 28 January 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - **Situation in Belarus** (*rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;
 - **Work programme:**
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs for report**: appointed, by acclamation, subject to the completion of the obligation to update their declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline:
 - Ms Rian Vogels (Netherlands, ALDE) as rapporteur on “Need to protect election observers”;
 - Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (Finland, SOC) as rapporteur on “Baltic Sea security challenges”;
 - Mr Max Lucks (Germany, SOC) as rapporteur on “Democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Iran”;
 - **Appointment of a rapporteur for opinion**: appointed, by acclamation, Ms Marie-Christine Dalloz (France, EPP/CD) 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;
 - **Request for an extension of reference**: agreed to request an extension of one year the validity of the reference “Strengthening early warning mechanisms for democratic backsliding” (*rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*);

- **Institutional representation:** in the framework of the Assembly’s institutional representation, and taking into account Assembly Resolution 2394 (2021) “Gender representation in the Parliamentary Assembly”, appointed the following members and substitutes, for submission to the Bureau of the Assembly:
 - **Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe (CDE):**

Member: Ms Rian Vogels (Netherlands, ALDE), by acclamation,
Substitute: Lord David Blenchatra (United Kingdom, ECPA), following a vote;
 - **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI):**

Member: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe (Romania, EPP/CD), by acclamation,
Substitute: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR), by acclamation;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network (Paris, 11-13 March 2026):** appointed Mr Titus Corlățean (Romania, SOC), Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) and Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) to participate in the ad hoc committee;
- **Sub-Committees:** approved the composition of the sub-committees (see Appendix);
- **Reporting back:** heard statements from:
 - Mr Max Lucks (Germany, SOC) about his visit to the European Youth Centre, Budapest, 27-29 July 2025;
 - Ms Rian Vogels (Netherlands, ALDE) about her participation in the Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe (CDE), Venice, 8 October 2025;
 - Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) about his participation in the World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 5-7 November 2025; the EU Parliamentary Democracy Forum, European Parliament, Brussels, 19 November 2025, and the launch of the Guidelines for citizen participation of the Network for Citizen Participation and Deliberation, Federation for Innovation in Democracy – Europe (online), 12 December 2025;
- **Authorisations:** authorised Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Brussels to meet with EU representatives, during the first semester of 2026, in the framework of the preparation of her reports on “Strengthening early warning mechanisms for democracy backsliding” and “The promotion of democratic security in Europe through soft power”;
- **Meeting of the Committee in Monaco (9-10 March 2026):** took note of the updated programme and practical information;
- **on Thursday 29 January 2026 at 8:30**, as regards:
 - **Threats against the international order: the case of Greenland** (*rapporteur: Mr Bertrand Bouyx, France, ALDE*): took position on 5 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Political crisis in the broader Middle East: need to protect human rights and the rights of all minority groups** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): took position on 7 amendments to the draft resolution, and decided to support one oral amendment and one oral sub-amendment;
 - **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2026:** took note of the deadline of 30 April 2026 for the submission of nominations;

- **Other business:** took note of the decision of the Bureau to set up an ad hoc committee to participate in a Joint hearing co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional authorities and the Venice Commission on “Securing the rights of observers for trusted and inclusive electoral processes (Paris, 28-29 April 2026), as a contribution to the New Democratic Pact;
- **Meetings in 2026:** took note of the meetings to be held as follows:
 - Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 March 2026, Monaco
 - Second part-session 2026 (20-24 April), Strasbourg
 - Wednesday 20 May 2026, Paris
 - Third part-session 2026 (22-26 June), Strasbourg
 - Tuesday 8 September 2026, Paris
 - Fourth part-session 2026 (28 September-2 October), Strasbourg
 - Monday 7 December 2026, Paris.

The **Sub-Committee on External Relations**, meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 28 January 2026 with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), oldest member present, then Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), first Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:**

elected, by acclamation:

 - Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), Chairperson,
 - Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), 1st Vice-Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World**, meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 28 January 2026 with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Ms Dora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans**, meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 28 January 2026 with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:**

elected, by acclamation:

 - Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Chairperson,
 - Ms Dunja Simonović Bratić (Serbia, SOC), 1st Vice-Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Catherine Hugel, Cesare Colombo, John Dorber, Eugen Schoenfeld

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 External Relations
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission des relations extérieures
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

27 seats / 27 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président

Mr George LOUCAIDES (Cyprus, UEL)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e

M. Bertrand BOUYX (France, ADLE)

Full Members / Membres titulaires

1.	Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie
2.	Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique
3.	Ms SACHEVA Denitsa (EPP/CD)	Bulgaria
4.	Mr PAVIĆ Marko (EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie
5.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre
6.	Mr SOKOL Petr (NR)	Czechia/ Tchéquie
7.	Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)	Denmark / Danemark
8.	Ms KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra (SOC)	Finland / Finlande
9.	M. BOUYX Bertrand (ALDE)	France
10.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France
11.	Mr KÖHLER Achim (ECPA)	Germany / Allemagne
12.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce
13.	Mr CASEY Patrick (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande
14.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie
15.	Mrs KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA Zanda (EPP/CD)	Latvia / Lettonie
16.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg
17.	Mme FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice (ADLE)	Monaco
18.	Ms LAKOVIĆ Nađa (EPP/CD)	Montenegro / Monténégro
19.	Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
20.	Mr STROE Ionuț-Marian (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie
21.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie
22.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne
23.	Ms ÅBERG Borianna (EPP/CD)	Sweden / Suède
24.	M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse
25.	Mr TÜRKES Yıldırım Tuğrul (NR)	Türkiye
26.	Ms VASYLENKO Lesia (ALDE)	Ukraine
27.	Lord BLENCATHRA David (ECPA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s

Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)
Mr DE BRABANDERE Bob (ECPA)
M. MARIE Didier (SOC)
Mr KOCH Heinrich (ECPA)
Mr OIKONOMOU Ioannis (EPP/CD)
M. Christophe BRICO (PPE/DC)
Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)
Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)
Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)
Mr MIRKOVIĆ Aleksandar (EPP/CD)
Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)
M. BÜCHEL Roland Rino (ALDE)
Mr TAN Namık (SOC)
Ms ZABURANNA Lesia (ALDE)
Ms KEARN Alicia (ECPA)

Ex officio: Ms Elisabetta GARDINI (Italy, ECPA)

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

**Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient et le monde arabe
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

27 seats / 27 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Présidente

Ms Dora BAKOYANNIS (Greece, EPP/CD)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e

Full Members / Titulaires

1.	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie
2.	Ms LAMBRECHT Annick (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique
3.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre
4.	Mr SOKOL Petr (NR)	Czechia/ Tchéquie
1.	Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)	Denmark / Danemark
2.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France
3.	Mr LUCKS Max (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne
4.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce
5.	Ms COLLINS Joanne (UEL)	Ireland / Irlande
6.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie
7.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg
8.	Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
9.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie
10.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne
11.	Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (PPE/DC)	Switzerland / Suisse
12.	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)	Türkiye
13.	Mr Serhii SOBOLEEV (EPP/CD)	Ukraine
14.	Mr BAKER Richard (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
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Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s

M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)
Mr Vinzenz GLASER (GUE)
Mr KALAMATIANOS Dionysios-Charalampos (UEL)
M. FASSINO Piero (SOC)
Mr Virgil Alin CHIRILĂ (SOC)
Mr GUTIÉRREZ PRIETO Sergio (SOC)
M. MOLINA Fabian (SOC)
Mr TORUN Cemalettin Kani (NR)
Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)
Mr GETHINS Stephen (ALDE)

Ex officio: Ms Elisabetta GARDINI (Italy, ECPA)

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

**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

M. Piero FASSINO (Italie, SOC)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-présidente

Ms Dunja SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ (Serbia, SOC)

Full Members / Membres titulaires

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2.	M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)	Belgium / Belgique
3.	Ms SACHEVA Denitsa (EPP/CD)	Bulgaria / Bulgarie
4.	Mr PAVIĆ Marko (EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie
5.	Mr VALENTIN Kim (ALDE)	Denmark / Danemark
6.	M. BOUYX Bertrand (ALDE)	France
7.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France
8.	Mme TANGUY Liliana (ALDE)	France
9.	Ms FAESER Nancy (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne
10.	Mr WALCH Siegfried (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne
11.	Mr KALAMATIANOS Dionysios-Charalampos (UEL)	Greece / Grèce
12.	Mr CASEY Patrick (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande
13.	Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)	Italy / Italie
14.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg
15.	Ms VOGELS Rian (ALDE)	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
16.	Ms PETRUSHEVSKA Marija (EPP/CD)	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
17.	Ms LAKOVIĆ Nađa (EPP/CD)	Montenegro / Monténégro
18.	Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
19.	Ms MITREA Dumitrina (ECPA)	Romania / Roumanie
20.	Ms SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie
21.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne
22.	Mr BEGIC Denis (SOC)	Sweden / Suède
23.	M. MOLINA Fabian (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse
24.	Mr TAN Namık (SOC)	Türkiye
25.	Ms KEARN Alicia (ECPA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
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Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s

Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (ALDE)

M. CADEC Alain (EPP/CD)
M. Didier MARIE (France, SOC)
Mr HARDT Jürgen (EPP/CD)

Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)

Mr DREOSTO Marco (ECPA)
Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)

Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)

Ms Elena Simona SPĂTARU (ALDE)
Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)

M. COTTIER Damien (SOC)
Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)
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