



SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2026) CB 02

13 March 2026

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Monaco, on 9-10 March 2026

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Monaco, on 9 and 10 March 2026, with Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA), Chairperson, and then Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE), third Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 9 March 2026**, as regards:
 - **Welcome addresses**: heard welcome addresses from Mr Thomas Brezzo, President of the National Council of Monaco, and from Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Chairperson of the delegation of Monaco to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - **Exchange of views with Mr Christophe Mirmand, Minister of State of the Principality of Monaco**: heard a statement by the Minister, followed by an exchange of views;
 - **Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy** (*rapporteur*: Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, ECPA): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, as amended;
 - **The situation in Iran and developments in the Gulf region**:
 - **Held a hearing** with the online participation of Mr Luigi Di Maio, EU Special Representative for the Gulf region, and Mr David Khalfa, Co-director of the Observatory for North Africa and the Middle East at the Foundation Jean-Jaurès, followed by an exchange of views;
 - **Democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Iran** (*rapporteur*: Mr Max Lucks, Germany, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur, and held a hearing with the participation of Ms Mina Khani, Board Member of Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, and Ms Mahnaz Shirali, political analyst on Iran, followed by an exchange of views;
 - **Saveguarding the rule of law in Tunisia** (*rapporteur*: Mr Didier Marie, France, SOC): considered an outline report, and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Hasni Abidi, Director of the Center for Studies and Research on the Arab and Mediterranean World, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Geneva, followed by an exchange of views;
- **on Tuesday 10 March 2026**, as regards:
 - **Follow-up to Resolution 2641 (2026) Threats against the international order: the case of Greenland** (*rapporteur for follow-up*: Mr Bertrand Bouyx, France, ALDE): heard a statement by the rapporteur for follow-up, and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Samu Paukkunen, Deputy Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, followed by an exchange of views;
 - **The promotion of democratic security in Europe through soft power** (*rapporteur*: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

- **Follow-up to Resolution 2637 (2026) Supporting the commitment to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine and the security of the European continent** (*rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur for follow-up, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2603 (2025) and to Recommendation 2296 (2025) Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America** (*rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones, Spain, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur for follow-up, followed by an exchange of views, and approved the proposal to set up a mandate of General Rapporteur on Latin America and to consider its draft terms of reference during a forthcoming meeting of the Committee;
- **Work programme**: called for candidates of rapporteurs for the following reports:
 - The role of the Council of Europe in the transition to democracy in Venezuela and other Latin American countries,
 - Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, and took note of the candidature of Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC);
- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees**: approved the changes as highlighted in bold in the Appendix;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2026**: took note of the deadline of 30 April 2026 for applications and that details were available on the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#);
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment 2026**: took note of the deadline of 27 March 2026 for applications and that details were available on the [Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment website](#);
- **Other business**: decided to propose to the Bureau to extend the additional rights granted to the Partner for Democracy delegation of Morocco for the 2025 session of the Assembly, as provided in subparagraphs 65.7.a to 65.7.e. of the Rules of Procedure, to the 2026 session of the Assembly, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Meetings in 2026**: took note of the meetings in 2026 to be held as follows:
 - 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
 - Friday 11 December 2026, Paris.

The **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans**, meeting in Monaco on 10 March 2026 with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Discussion on future work**:
 - heard a statement by the Chairperson, followed by an exchange of views;
 - welcomed the proposal by Mr Marko Pavić (Croatia, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the delegation of Croatia to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, to invite the Sub-Committee to hold a meeting in Zagreb in 2026;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Catherine Hugel, Cesare Colombo, 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
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

Appendix

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 SIMONOVIC BRATIC (Serbia, SOC)

Full Members / Membres titulaires

1.	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie
2.	M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)	Belgium / Belgique
3.	Ms SACHEVA Denitsa (EPP/CD)	Bulgaria / Bulgarie
4.	Mr PAVIC 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 DREOSTO Marco (ECPA)	Italy / Italie
15.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg
16.	Ms VOGELS Rian (ALDE)	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
17.	Ms PETRUSHEVSKA Marija (EPP/CD)	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
18.	Ms LAKOVIC Nađa (EPP/CD)	Montenegro / Monténégro
19.	Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
20.	Ms MITREA Dumitrina (ECPA)	Romania / Roumanie
21.	Ms SIMONOVIC BRATIC Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie
22.	Mr GUTIERREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne
23.	Mr BEGIC Denis (SOC)	Sweden / Suède
24.	M. MOLINA Fabian (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse
25.	Mr TAN Namik (SOC)	Türkiye
26.	Ms KEARN Alicia (ECPA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
27.		

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 GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)
Ms VASILEVSKA Ivanka
Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)
Ms Elena Simona SPĂTARU (ALDE)
Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)
M. COTTIER Damien (SOC)
Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)
Mr Stephen GETHINS (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 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

Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s

1.	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
2.	Ms LAMBRECHT Annick (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique	M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)
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	Mr Vinzenz GLASER (GUE)
4.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr KALAMATIANOS Dionysios-Charalampos (UEL)
5.	Ms COLLINS Joanne (UEL)	Ireland / Irlande	
6.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie	M. FASSINO Piero (SOC)
7.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
8.	Ms KLUIT Saskia (SOC)	Netherlands	
9.	Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
10.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr Virgil Alin CHIRILĂ (SOC)
11.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne	Mr GUTIÉRREZ PRIETO Sergio (SOC)
12.	Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (PPE/DC)	Switzerland / Suisse	M. MOLINA Fabian (SOC)
13.	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)	Türkiye	Mr TORUN Cemalettin Kani (NR)
14.	Mr Serhii SOBOLEEV (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)
15.	Mr BAKER Richard (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr GETHINS Stephen (ALDE)
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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