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SECRETARIAT

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5 October 2026

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis
of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 28 September to 1st October 2026

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 28 September to 1st October 2026, with Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA), then Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), first Vice-Chairperson, and Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on External Relations, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 28 September 2026 at 15:00**, as regards:

– ***Debate under urgent procedure on Fake 'elections' in Russia and its destabilising attacks on Europe***: appointed Ms Alicia Kearns (United Kingdom, ECPA) as rapporteur and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;

– ***Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Anticipation Summit 2026 (Geneva, Switzerland, 14-15 October)***: appointed Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) and Mr Namık Tan (Türkiye, SOC) to participate in the *ad hoc* committee, at no cost to the Assembly;

- **on Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 8:30**, as regards:

– ***Fake 'elections' in Russia and its destabilising attacks on Europe*** *(rapporteur: Ms Alicia Kearns, United Kingdom, ECPA)*: considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, as amended;

– ***Situation in the Middle East*** *(rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

– ***Suspension of Israel's observer status*** *(rapporteur: Mr Ricardo Carvalho, Portugal, EPP/CD)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

– **Authorisations by the Committee**: authorised Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), in his capacity of General Rapporteur for Latin America, to participate in the XII Ibero-American Parliamentary Forum, in Madrid, on 1-2 October 2026, at no cost to the Assembly;

- **on Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 14:15**, as regards:

– ***Democratic security: strengthening Council of Europe's early warning mechanisms*** *(rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

– ***The security of critical infrastructure as a pillar of democratic stability in Europe*** *(rapporteur: Ms Lesia Zaburanna, Ukraine, ALDE)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

– ***Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine*** *(rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

– ***Democratic security in the Western Balkans*** *(rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

- **on Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:

– ***Fake 'elections' in Russia and its destabilising attacks on Europe*** *(rapporteur: Ms Alicia Kearns, United Kingdom, ECPA)*: took position on 14 amendments to the draft resolution, and decided to support 1 oral amendment;

– ***Need to protect election observers*** *(rapporteur: Ms Rian Vogels, Netherlands, ALDE)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered an introductory memorandum, followed by an exchange of views;

– ***A closer co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the United States Congress*** *(rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

– ***Council of Europe: grounded in core values to meet the challenges ahead*** *(follow-up to the general policy debate, subject to the Bureau decision to be taken on 2 October 2026)*: appointed, by acclamation, Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) as rapporteur for report, subject to the completion of the obligation to update the declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline, and authorised him to travel to Strasbourg to hold bilateral meetings in this capacity;

– ***Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees***: approved the changes as highlighted in bold in the Appendix;

– ***Reporting back***: heard a statement from Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) about his participation in the 17th edition of the EuroPCom – European Public Communication Conference, in Brussels, on 9-10 June 2026;

– ***Request for the extension of a reference***: agreed to request an extension of one year to the validity of the reference "Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic" (*rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*);

– **Authorisations by the Committee**: authorised Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), in his capacity of General Rapporteur on Democracy, to participate, at no cost to the Assembly:
  - in the OECD Global Forum on Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy, in Paris, on 12–13 October 2026;
  - in the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the 2026 World Forum for Democracy, in Strasbourg, on 2–3 November;

- **on Thursday 1st October 2026 at 8:30**, as regards:

– ***The role of the OECD in evaluating the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the future of work*** *(rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): took position on 8 amendments to the draft resolution;

– ***Peace and security in the emerging global order*** *(rapporteur: Mr Christophe Brico, Monaco, EPP/CD)*: heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;

– ***Sub-Committee on External Relations***: heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), as regards the programme of the meeting of the Sub-Committee at the UN Headquarters, in New York, United States, on 9-11 November 2026;

– ***Work programme***: appointed, by acclamation, subject to the completion of the obligation to update the declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline:

- ***Rapporteurs for* report**:

  - Ms Alicia Kearns (United Kingdom, ECPA) as rapporteur on “Baltic Sea security challenges”;
  - Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) as rapporteur on “Europe, democratic Russian civil society in exile and a democratic future for post-Putin Russia”;
  - Ms Denitsa Sacheva (Bulgaria, EPP/CD) as rapporteur on “Europe's demographic winter: political implications for democracy”;

- ***Rapporteur for opinion***: Mr Márton Hajdu (Hungary, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on “Democratising the economy: a new frontier for democratic governance”;

– ***Meetings in 2026***: took note of the meetings to be held as follows:

- 9-11 November 2026, New York, United States, Sub-Committee on External Relations
- Friday 11 December 2026, Paris.

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*

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Mr George LOUCAIDES (Cyprus, UEL)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président·e

M. Bertrand BOUYX (France, ADLE)

	Full Members / Membres titulaires		***Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s***
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2.	Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	Mr DE BRABANDERE Bob (ECPA)
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.	**Mr KILJUNEN Kimmo (SOC)**	Finland / Finlande	
9.	M. BOUYX Bertrand (ALDE)	France	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)
10.	Mr KÖHLER Achim (ECPA)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr KOCH Heinrich (ECPA)
11.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr OIKONOMOU Ioannis (EPP/CD)
12.	Mr CASEY Patrick (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
13.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie	
14.	Mrs KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA Zanda (EPP/CD)	Latvia / Lettonie	
15.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg	
16.	Mme FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice (ADLE)	Monaco	M. Christophe BRICO (PPE/DC)
17.	**Mr ČARAPIĆ Vasilije (EPP/CD)**	Montenegro / Monténégro	**Mr RADOVANIĆ Mileta (SOC)**
18.	Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)
19.	**Mr Ricardo CARVALHO (EPP/CD)**	Portugal	**Mme Edite ESTRELA (SOC)**
20.	Mr STROE Ionuț-Marian (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr CORLĂŢEAN Titus (SOC)
21.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	Mr MIRKOVIĆ Aleksandar (EPP/CD)
22.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)
23.	Ms ÅBERG Boriana (EPP/CD)	Sweden / Suède	
24.	M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse	M. BÜCHEL Roland Rino (ALDE)
25.	Mr TÜRKES Yıldırım Tuğrul (NR)	Türkiye	Mr TAN Namık (SOC)
26.	Ms VASYLENKO Lesia (ALDE)	Ukraine	Ms ZABURANNA Lesia (ALDE)
27.	Lord BLENCATHRA David (ECPA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Ms KEARNS 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

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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président·e

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18.	Mr Serhii SOBOLIEV (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)
19.	Mr BAKER Richard (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
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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

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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-présidente

Ms Dunja SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ (Serbia, SOC)

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25.	Ms KEARNS Alicia (ECPA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
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