

SECRETARIAT

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02 February 2026

To the members of the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities

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

The **Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities**, meeting in Strasbourg, from 26 to 29 January 2026, with first Sir Edward Leigh (United Kingdom, ECPA), oldest member present, then Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and Mr Yunus Emre (Türkiye, SOC), first 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:

 - Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) as Chairperson;
 - Mr Christophe Brico (Monaco, EPP/CD), as third Vice-Chairperson;
 - **Challenge, on procedural grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Austria:** held an exchange of views, considered and adopted an opinion for the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in accordance with Rule 7.2 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, concluding that:
 - the credentials of the Austrian parliamentary delegation should be ratified;
 - the challenge of credentials based on Rule 7.1 of the Rules of Procedure must relate to the grounds set out in Rule 7.1;
 - the challenge was therefore not in compliance with the Rules of Procedure.
- **On Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 8:30**, as regards:
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**
 - elected, by acclamation, Mr Yunus Emre (Türkiye, SOC), as first Vice-Chairperson;
 - **Challenge, on procedural grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Poland:** held an exchange of views, considered and adopted an opinion for the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in accordance with Rule 7.2 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, concluding that the credentials of the Polish parliamentary delegation should be ratified;
 - **Guidance on declaring, identifying and managing interests** (*General Rapporteur on Ethical Standards and Anti-Corruption*,: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko, Ukraine, EPP/CD): considered and approved the guidance on declaring, identifying and managing interests prepared by the secretariat under the instructions of the General Rapporteur;
 - **Round table on Strengthening Ethics and Integrity in Parliaments (13-14 November 2025, Limassol, Cyprus):** declassified the minutes;

- **On Thursday 29 January 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - ***Applying ethical standards to the members of all delegations participating in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Rian Vogels, Netherlands, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum and authorised the organisation of hearings in the context of the preparation of report;
 - ***Follow-up to the 4th round of GRECO recommendations relating to parliamentarians*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Yunus Emre, Türkiye, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and authorised the organisation of hearings in the context of the preparation of report;
 - ***Ensuring Parliamentary Assembly members can travel freely to carry out their work*** (*Rapporteur Mr Sergiy Vlasenko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): declassified the information note summarising the replies to a questionnaire and decided that the information note on the rapporteur's fact-finding visit should be declassified upon the conclusion of the judicial proceedings relating to the member of the Assembly in question;
 - ***Increasing members' active participation in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): declassified the information note summarising the replies to a questionnaire;
 - ***Participation of members in Parliamentary Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings***: held an exchange of views, considered and declassified an information note prepared by the Secretariat and approved the proposals to the Bureau of the Assembly;
 - ***Work programme***:
 - took note of the work programme;
 - took note of the interest expressed by Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC) and Mr Christophe Brico (Monaco, EPP/CD) to be rapporteur on *Modification of various provisions of the Rules of Procedure*;
 - ***Other business***:
 - took note of the call for nominations for the 2026 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize and of the deadline of 30 April 2026 for the submission of nominations;
 - authorised a fact-finding visit to Paris by Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE) in the framework of the preparation of her report on '*Developing a code of conduct for interest representatives in the Assembly*';
 - took note that the Chairperson had responded to a letter from Mr Paweł Jabłoński (Poland, ECPA) concerning the challenge to credentials and the timing of the election of the President of the Assembly;
 - ***Next meeting***: decided to hold its next meeting in Paris, on 2 March 2026.

Isild Heurtin, Eleanor Hourigan, Roberta d'amore

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