



AS/Soc (2025) CB03

11 April 2025

To the members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg during the 2nd part-session 2025

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Strasbourg with Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee, in the Chair, on:

- **Monday, 7 April 2025, at 2.45 pm, as regards:**
 - **Debate under urgent procedure on the Draft Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered and unanimously adopted a draft opinion;
 - **Changes in Sub-Committees:** Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) became a full member of the **Sub-committee on the Europe Prize**;
 - **Guaranteeing the right to access to drinking water:** considered a draft motion for a resolution and decided to table this motion on behalf of the Committee;
- **Tuesday, 8 April 2025, at 8.30 am, as regards:**
 - **Violent pornography** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): held a joint hearing with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination with the participation of Ms Maree Crabbe, Director, It's Time We Talked, Australia (*online*), and Ms Ruth Breslin, Director, SERP – the Sexual Exploitation Research and Policy Institute, Ireland;
 - **Committee's work programme and priorities:**
 - **appointment of representatives to external events:** appointed:
 - ✓ Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) as member (*participation at no cost to the Assembly*) and Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as substitute to participate to the Informal Conference of Ministers "15 years of the Lanzarote Convention: Achievements, Challenges and Way Forward to Prevent and Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse", 30 June - 1 July 2025, Valletta, Malta;
 - ✓ Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) as member (*participation at no cost to the Assembly*) and Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as substitute to sit at the 45th Plenary Meeting of Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Committee), 2-3 July 2025, Valletta, Malta;
 - ✓ Ms María Fernández (Spain, SOC) in addition to the previously appointed members, to participate to the *Ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the parliamentary conference on "Envisioning effective public policy to prevent & address cases of missing migrants", 23-24 April 2025, Strasbourg;
 - **reports from Committee representatives to external events:** heard back from:
 - ✓ Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) on the 4th meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Multidisciplinary Group on Environment (GME), 10-12 March 2025, Strasbourg;
 - **Follow-up to the report "The absolute and urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis for women, children and the hostages in Gaza"** (*Rapporteur: Ms Saskia Kluit, Netherlands, SOC*): held a hearing with Ms Claire Nicolet, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) / Doctors Without Borders (*online*), and Mr David Wightwick, Chief Executive Officer, UK-Med (*online*);

- **Tuesday, 8 April 2025, at 2 pm, as regards:**
 - ***Draft Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment within mental healthcare services*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Carmen Leyte, Spain, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with Ms Damaris Carnal, Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) and Ms Laverne Jacobs, Representative of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (*online*);
 - ***Europe Prize***: considered the applications of the two cities pre-selected by the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, decided to award the Europe Prize 2025 to the city of Gaziantep in Türkiye and approved the proposals submitted by the Sub-Committee for the different distinctions (*see the Appendix*);
- **Thursday, 10 April 2025, at 8.30 am, as regards:**
 - ***Debate under urgent procedure on the “Draft Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law”*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Ukraine, ALDE*): noted that no amendments had been tabled to the draft opinion;
 - held an exchange of views with Ambassador Dastid Koreshti, Permanent Representative of Albania, Chair of the Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC);
 - ***Committee of Ministers’ replies***: considered the Committee of Ministers’ reply to Assembly Recommendation 2262 (2023) on “Preventing addictive behaviours in children” (*Rapporteur: Ms Diana Stoica, Romania, ALDE*);
 - ***Committee’s work programme and priorities***:
 - ***appointment of representatives to external events***: appointed:
 - ✓ Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) as member and Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) as substitute, to participate to the Launch of the Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport, 3 June 2025, Trondheim, Norway;
 - ***reports from Committee representatives to external events***: heard back from:
 - ✓ Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) on the 48th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, 25-27 March 2025, Strasbourg;
 - ✓ Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE), Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) on the Midterm review Conference of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), 3-4 April 2025, Strasbourg;
 - ***Other business***: took note of the new name (“Inclusive and Sustainable Societies and Co-operation Directorate”) of the Directorate of which the Committee is part;
 - ***Dates and places of next meetings***: took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:

Plenary committee

16 May 2025, Helsinki

Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23-27 June 2025, Strasbourg

11 September 2025, Paris office

Fourth part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 29 September - 3 October 2025, Strasbourg

4 December 2025, Paris office

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize

6 June 2025, San Sebastian

Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter

Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23-27 June 2025, Strasbourg

Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment

Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23-27 June 2025, Strasbourg

3 December 2025, Paris office (to be confirmed)

Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine

15 May 2025, Helsinki - Conference on deported children from Ukraine: parliamentary action
Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23-27 June 2025, Strasbourg

The Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, meeting *in camera* in Strasbourg on **Monday, 7 April 2025, at 2 pm**, with Mr Christian Petry (Germany, SOC), Sub-Committee Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Europe Prize 2025**: voted for two nominees from a list of six candidate municipalities and forwarded the list to the plenary committee to designate the prize-winning municipality;
- **Plaques of Honour, Flags of Honour and European Diplomas for 2025**: proposed to award these distinctions to 18 towns as shown in the Appendix;
- **Date and place of the next meetings**: took note of the next meeting to be held as follows:
 - 70th anniversary of the Europe Prize, San Sebastian (Spain), 6 June 2025
 - Ceremony for the presentation of the 2025 European Diplomas: third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23-27 June 2025, Strasbourg (*date to be confirmed*).

The Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine, meeting in Strasbourg on **Thursday, 10 April 2025, at 1 pm**, with Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA), Network Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- heard a presentation and held an exchange of views with **Ms Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir**, Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the situation of the children of Ukraine;
- **Protection of the rights of displaced Ukrainian children residing in Council of Europe member states, including those in institutional care**: heard a presentation of the current situation and problems Ukraine faces in terms of accessing relocated Ukrainian children by **Ms Iryna Postolovska**, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for European Integration; held an exchange of views with **Ms Jean Choi**, the UNICEF Ukraine Child Protection Section Chief;
- **Dates and places of next meetings**: took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:
 - 15 May 2025, Helsinki - Conference on “Deported children from Ukraine: parliamentary action”
 - 9-10 June 2025, Kyiv (subject to the approval by the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23-27 June 2025, Strasbourg

Catherine Du Bernard, Aiste Ramanauskaite, Jannick Devaux, Olga Kostenko

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: THE PLAQUE OF HONOUR, THE FLAG OF HONOUR AND THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR 2025

1. EUROPE PRIZE

The **Europe Prize**, which is the highest distinction, is awarded to:

Türkiye **Gaziantep** (South-East Anatolia)

2. PLAQUES OF HONOUR

The **Plaque of Honour**, which is the second highest distinction after the Europe Prize, is awarded to five municipalities:

Germany **Kassel** (Hessen)

Nagold (Baden-Württemberg)

Poland **Morawica** (Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship)

Spain **Bilbao** (Basque Country)

Mollet del Vallès (Catalonia)

3. FLAGS OF HONOUR

The **Flag of Honour** is awarded to four municipalities:

Germany **Potsdam** (Brandenburg)

Siegen (North Rhine-Westphalia)

Sweden **Jönköping** (Småland province)

Türkiye **Çorlu** (Tekirdağ province)

4. EUROPEAN DIPLOMAS

The **European Diploma** is awarded to nine municipalities:

France **Montpellier** (Occitanie region)

Germany **Brake (Unterweser)** (Lower Saxony)

Heidelberg (Baden-Württemberg)

Leipzig (Saxony)

Italy **Ottiglio** (Piedmont region)

Sala Monferrato (Piedmont region)

Spain **Zaragoza** (Zaragoza Province)

Türkiye **Adana** (Adana province)

Eskişehir (Eskişehir Province)