



AS/Soc (2026) CB01rev

3 March 2026

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg during the first part session 2026

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Strasbourg on

- **Tuesday, 27 January 2026, at 2 pm**, with first Lord Don Touhig (United Kingdom, SOC), oldest member present, and then Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), re-elected Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**
 - re-elected, by acclamation, Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), Chairperson,
 - elected, by acclamation, Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD), first Vice-Chairperson,
 - elected, by acclamation, Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE), second Vice-Chairperson,
 - elected, in absentia, Ms Sophia Chikirou (France, UEL), third Vice-Chairperson;
 - **Reconstitution of Sub-Committees:** decided to reconstitute the following Sub-Committees:
 - Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize,
 - Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter;
 - **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the composition as it appears in the attached appendix;
 - **Standing invitation:** decided, in accordance with Resolution 1376 (2004) and 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's 2026 Ordinary Sessions; 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;
 - **Debate under urgent procedure on “65th anniversary of the European Social Charter”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paul Gallez, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): took note of the rapporteur's declaration of absence of conflict of interest submitted in writing; modified the title of the report to read “65th anniversary of the European Social Charter: social rights as the foundation of resilient democracies and social justice”; considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **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*): took note that Ms Francesca Albanese, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, would replace Ms Celine Galli, Medical Doctor, for the exchange of views with the Committee the following day on this point;
 - **Reports from Committee representatives to external events:** heard statements by:
 - ✓ Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD) on his participation in the 15th meeting of the COE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights on 3 October 2025 in Edinburgh,
 - ✓ Mr Michael Farrugia (Malta, SOC) on his participation in the Council of Europe Conference on the Protection of Health on 15 October 2025 in Strasbourg,
 - ✓ Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, ECPA) on his participation in the World Forum for Democracy 2025 on 4-7 November 2025 in Strasbourg,
 - ✓ Ms Aurora Floridaia (Italy, SOC) on her participation in the 5th meeting of the *ad hoc* Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) on 2-4 December 2025 in Strasbourg,
 - ✓ Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) on her participation in the Ceremony for the official presentation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and the opening for signature of

- the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law on 3 December 2025 in Strasbourg,
- ✓ Mr Georgios Stamatias (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in the the Conference on Inclusive Care for Older Persons, organised by the Council of Europe and the Council of Europe Development Bank on 9 December 2025 in Strasbourg,
 - ✓ Ms Lesia Zaburanna (Ukraine, ALDE) on her participation in the Conference on Artificial Intelligence on 15-16 December 2025 in London;
- **Wednesday, 28 January 2026, 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*): took position on one amendment tabled to the draft opinion;
 - **Guaranteeing the right of access to drinking water** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **Reports from Committee representatives to external events:** heard Mr Rónán Mullen (Ireland, EPP/CD) on his participation in the 46th plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Committee) on 18-21 November 2025 in Chişinău (Republic of Moldova);
 - **Terms of reference for General Rapporteurs:** considered the revised terms of reference in accordance with the latest amendments to the rules of procedure, for the Committee's General Rapporteurs as follows:
 - ✓ General Rapporteur on Local and Regional Authorities,
 - ✓ General Rapporteur on Child Participation,
 - ✓ General Rapporteur on the situation of women and children in the Palestinian territories;
 - **Appointment of Committee representatives to networks:** appointed Committee representatives to Networks as follows:
 - ✓ Ms Victoria Tiblom (Sweden, ECPA) for the Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment,
 - ✓ Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL) for the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe,
 - ✓ Ms Claudia Arpa (Austria, SOC) for the Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport;
 - **General Rapporteur on the situation of women and children in the Palestinian territories:** appointed, by acclamation, Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD) and heard his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **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 an exchange of views with Ms Francesca Albanese, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 (online); heard an update from the rapporteur on the latest developments; took note of the rapporteur's invitation to attend the screening of the film "The Voice of Hind Rajab" on Thursday, 29 January 2026 at 8 pm in the Council of Europe screening room;
 - **Thursday, 29 January 2026, at 8:30 am, as regards:**
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: 65th anniversary of the European Social Charter: social rights as the foundation of resilient democracies and social justice** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paul Galles, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): took note that no amendments had been tabled;
 - **Ensuring sustainable food security in times of crisis: strengthening resilience and access to food** (*Rapporteur: Ms Larysa Bilozir, Ukraine, ALDE*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Michael Fakhri, Special Rapporteur on the right to food, United Nations (online), and of Mr Jean-Martin Bauer, Director, Food Security and Nutrition Analysis, World Food Programme;
 - **Institutional representation of PACE in 2026:** nominated Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD) as representative and Ms Larysa Bilozir (Ukraine, ALDE) as alternate for the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – Council of Europe North-South Centre, for submission to the Bureau of the Assembly;

- **Appointment of rapporteurs:** issued a call for candidates for a rapporteur (to be appointed at a subsequent meeting) on:
 - ✓ Climate action as a human and democratic responsibility,
 - ✓ Towards a coherent European policy on veterans;
- **Committee representatives to external events:** appointed its representatives as follows (*subject to the availability of funds*):
 - ✓ Mr Georgios Stamatidis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Ms Ogerta Manastirliu (Albania, SOC) (at no cost for the Assembly) to participate to the International Conference on Patients' Rights on 26–27 February 2026 in Yerevan (Armenia),
 - ✓ Ms Lesia Zaburanna (Ukraine, ALDE), Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, ECPA) and Ms Maria-Gabriela Horga (Romania, EPP/CD) as members and Ms Larysa Bilozir (Ukraine, ALDE) as substitute member to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network on 11-13 March 2026 in Paris,
 - ✓ Ms Ogerta Manastirliu (Albania, SOC) to participate to the 47th plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Committee) on 24-26 March 2026 in Strasbourg,
 - ✓ Ms Aurora Floridaia (Italy, SOC) to participate to the 1st meeting of the Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV) on 24-25 March 2026 in Strasbourg,
 - ✓ Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) to participate to the 50th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on 31 March-2 April 2026 in Strasbourg;
- **Dates and places of next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:

Plenary committee

- 13 March 2026, Paris office
- Second part session of the Assembly, 20-24 April 2026, Strasbourg
- 4-5 June 2026, Paris office or elsewhere (*to be confirmed*)
- Third part session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg
- 10 September 2026, Paris office
- Fourth part session of the Assembly, 28 September-2 October 2026, Strasbourg
- 3-4 December 2026, Paris office

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize

Second part session of the Assembly, 20-24 April 2026, Strasbourg (*to be confirmed*)

Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter

Second part session of the Assembly, 20-24 April 2026, Strasbourg (*to be confirmed*)

Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment

Second part session of the Assembly, 20-24 April 2026, Strasbourg (*to be confirmed*)

Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine

Second part session of the Assembly, 20-24 April 2026, Strasbourg (*to be confirmed*)

The Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, meeting in Strasbourg on **Wednesday, 28 January 2026**, with first Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD), oldest member present, and then Mr Miloš Konatar (Montenegro, SOC), elected Sub-Committee Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Bureau of the Sub-Committee:**
 - elected by acclamation Mr Miloš Konatar (Montenegro, SOC), Chairperson,
 - elected by acclamation Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD), Vice-Chairperson;
- was informed about the applications received for the 2026 Europe Prize edition;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** took note of its next meetings to be held as follows:
 - Second part of the 2026 session of the Assembly, 20-24 April 2026, Strasbourg (*in camera, date to be confirmed*);
 - Third part of the 2026 session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg (*date to be confirmed*).

The Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter, meeting in Strasbourg on **Wednesday, 28 January 2026**, with first Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD), oldest member present, then Ms María Fernández (Spain, SOC) as elected Sub-Committee Chairperson, in the Chair:

- elected, by acclamation, Ms María Fernández (Spain, SOC), Chairperson,
 - elected, by acclamation, Ms Sibel Arslan (Switzerland, SOC), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** took note of its next meetings to be held as follows:
- Second part session of the Assembly, 20-24 April 2026, Strasbourg (*to be confirmed*),
 - Third part of the 2026 session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg (*to be confirmed*).

The Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine, meeting in Strasbourg on **Thursday, 29 January 2026**, with first Lord Don Touhig (United Kingdom, SOC), oldest member present, and then with Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA) as Network Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Re-confirmation of the Bureau of the Network:**
- Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA), Chairperson,
 - Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (Finland, SOC), Vice-Chairperson;
- discussed and approved the Priorities and Workplan of the Network for 2026;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** took note of its next meetings to be held as follows:
- Second part session of the Assembly, 20-24 April 2026, Strasbourg (*to be confirmed*),
 - Third part of the 2026 session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg (*date to be confirmed*).

Catherine Du Bernard, Claire Dubois-Hamdi, Aiste Ramanauskaite,
Jannick Devaux, Olga Kostenko, Prisca Barthel

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

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize
Sous-commission du Prix de l'Europe

List of members/Liste des membres
 (26 seats/26 sièges)

Chairperson / *Président* : Mr Miloš Konatar, Montenegro, SOC

Vice-Chairperson / *Vice-Président* : Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, PPE/CD

Members / Membres				Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s	
1.	Mr	Armen Gevorgyan	Armenia/ <i>Arménie</i>		Zz...
2.	Ms	Claudia Arpa	Austria/ <i>Autriche</i>		Zz...
3.	Mr	Marko Pavić	Croatia/ <i>Croatie</i>		Zz...
4.	Ms	Minna Reijonen	Finland/ <i>Finlande</i>		Zz...
5.	M.	Alexandre Dufosset	France	M.	Alain Milon
6.	Ms	Maria Syrengela	Greece/ <i>Grèce</i>	Mr	Georgios Stamatidis
7.	Mr	Serdar Yüksel	Germany/ <i>Allemagne</i>	Mr	Julian Joswig
8.	Mr	Joseph O'Reilly	Ireland/ <i>Irlande</i>		Zz...
9.	Mr	Stefano Maullu	Italy/ <i>Italie</i>		Zz...
10.	Mr	Miloš Konatar	Montenegro/ <i>Monténégro</i>		Zz...
11.	Ms	Danuta Jazłowiecka	Poland/ <i>Pologne</i>		Zz...
12.	Mr	Robert Ionatan Sighiartău	Romania/ <i>Roumanie</i>	Ms	Maria Gabriela Horga
13.	Mr	Vladimir Đorđević	Serbia/ <i>Serbie</i>		Zz...
14.	Ms	Carmen Leyte	Spain/ <i>Espagne</i>	Ms	María Fernández
15.	Ms	Sibel Arslan	Switzerland/ <i>Suisse</i>	Mme	Céline Amaudruz
16.	M.	Niklaus-Samuel Gugger	Switzerland/ <i>Suisse</i>	Mme	Valérie Piller Carrard
17.	Mr	Berdan Öztürk	Türkiye		Zz...
18.	Ms	Yuliia Ovchynnykova	Ukraine	Ms	Larysa Bilozir
19.	Ms	Lesia Ziburanna	Ukraine		Zz...
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25.					
26.					

Ex officio : Ms Saskia Kluit, Netherlands, SOC

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable

Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter
Sous-commission sur la Charte sociale européenne

List of members / Liste des membres
 (26 seats / 26 sièges)

Chairperson / *Présidente* : Ms María Fernández, Spain, SOC

Vice-Chairperson / *Vice-Président-e* : Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC

Members / Membres

Alternates / Remplaçant-es

1.	Mr	Armen Gevorgyan	Armenia / <i>Arménie</i>	Mr	Hripsime Grigoryan
2.	Ms	Claudia Arpa	Austria / <i>Autriche</i>		Zz...
3.	Ms	Anne Lambelin	Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>	Mr	Andries Gryffroy
4.	Mr	Marko Pavić	Croatia / <i>Croatie</i>		Zz...
5.	Ms	Charlotte Bagge Hansen	Denmark / <i>Danemark</i>		Zz...
6.	Ms	Minna Reijonen	Finland / <i>Finlande</i>		Zz...
7.	Mr	Alain Milon	France		Zz...
8.	Ms	Inge Gräßle	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	Mr	Vinzenz Glaser
9.	Mr	Dionysios Charalampos Kalamatianos	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	Mr	Maria Nefeli Chatziioannidou
10.	Mr	Rónán Mullen	Ireland / <i>Irlande</i>		Zz...
11.	Ms	Elena Bonetti	Italy / <i>Italie</i>		Zz...
12.	Mr	Paul Galles	Luxembourg / <i>Luxembourg</i>		Zz...
13.	Mr	Michael Farrugia	Malta / <i>Malte</i>		Zz...
14.	Ms	Edina Dešić	Montenegro / <i>Montenegro</i>		Zz...
15.	Mr	Jan Filip Libicki	Poland / <i>Pologne</i>		Zz...
16.	Ms	Georgeta Carmen Holban	Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>	Ms	Dumitrina Mitrea
17.	Mr	Vladimir Djordjevic	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>		Zz...
18.	Ms	María Fernández	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	Mr	José Latorre
19.	Ms	Valérie Piller Carrard	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	Ms	Céline Amaudruz
20.	Ms	Sibel Arslan	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	Mr	Niklaus-Samuel Gugger
21.	Ms	Gökçe Gökçen	Türkiye		Zz...
22.	Mr	Murat Cahid Cingi	Türkiye		Zz...
23.	Ms	Larysa Bilozir	Ukraine		Zz...
24.	Mr	Mr Rostyslav Tistyk	Ukraine		Zz...
25.	Lord	Don Touhig	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>		Zz...
26.					

Ex officio : Ms Saskia Kluit, Netherlands, SOC