



AS/Soc (2026) CB04

9 June 2026

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Athens on 4 and 5 June 2026

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Athens on Thursday, 4 June 2026, with Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Welcome address:** heard a welcome address by Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on behalf of the Greek delegation to PACE;
- **The situation of Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jan Filip Libicki, Poland, EPP/CD*): changed the title of the report to “The need for systemic support to Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities”, considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Towards a family-friendly Europe: policy recommendations for demographic renewal** (*Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Stamatis, Greece, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with Ms Domna Michailidou, Greek Minister of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs, Ms Niki Kerameus, Greek Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, Mr Stelios Maridakis, Vice-President of the National Youth Council of Greece, Prof. Basil C. Tarlatzis, Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics-Gynaecology and Human Reproduction, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and Ms Alexandra Tragakis, Professor of economic demography at Harokopio University;
- **Ensuring sustainable food security in times of crisis: strengthening resilience and access to food** (*Rapporteur: Ms Larysa Bilozir, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **Food challenges and responses: the experience of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Allal Amraoui, Morocco*): considered and approved an information report;
- **Guaranteeing the right to access to drinking water** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC*): held a hearing with Dr Dionysia Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Chair of the Special Standing Committee on Environmental Protection of the Greek Parliament, Mr Scoulios Michael, Professor Emeritus, Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry and Ms Claire Nicolet, Deputy Cell Manager Emergency Cell, MSF (Doctors without borders) (online);
- **Europe Prize:** heard a presentation on the Europe Prize and its functioning, and heard a statement by Mr Grigoris Konstantellos, Mayor of Varis Voulas Vouliagmeni;
- **Sexual violence against children:** considered the follow-up to the discussions held in Paris and the overview of the situation in member States;
- **Committee’s work programme and priorities:**
 - **appointment of rapporteurs:**
 - ✓ appointed Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) as rapporteur for opinion on “Access of migrants and refugees to healthcare”, subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include her rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - ✓ decided to postpone the appointment of rapporteur on “Democratising the economy: a new frontier for democratic governance” to its next meeting;

- **call for candidates:** issued a call for candidates for:
 - ✓ report on “Children without identity in Europe and around the world: a crucial challenge for fundamental rights” and took note of the interest of Mr Régis Bergonzi (Monaco, ALDE);
 - ✓ report on “Protecting lakes as natural and cultural heritage and as a strategic resource for people in the face of the triple planetary crisis” and took note of the interest of Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) and Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC);
- **appointment of representatives to external events:** appointed:
 - ✓ Ms Heike Engelhardt (Germany, SOC) to represent the Assembly in the official ceremony to award the Flag of Honour to the city of Siegen (Germany) on 13 June 2026;
 - ✓ Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD), Mr Berdan Öztürk (Türkiye, UEL) and Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) to sit in the *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau to participate in the 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty on 30 June-2 July 2026, in Paris;
 - ✓ Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) to participate in the 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV) on 13-14 October 2026, in Strasbourg;
 - ✓ Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) to participate in the 51th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on 27-29 October 2026, in Strasbourg;
 - ✓ Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) to participate in the 49th 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 17-19 November 2026, in Strasbourg;
 - ✓ Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA) to participate in the 14th Plenary meeting of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) on 25 - 27 November 2026, in Strasbourg;
- **The situation of women and children in the Palestinian territories:** held a hearing with Mr Khaled Quzmar, Executive Director, Palestinian Centre for Child Rights (online);
- **Dates and places of next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:

Plenary committee

- 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 December 2026, Paris office

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize

- Third part-session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg (to be confirmed)

Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter

- Third part-session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg (to be confirmed)

Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment

- Third part-session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg (to be confirmed)
- 4 December 2026, Paris office

Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine

- Third part-session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg
- Fourth part-session of the Assembly, 28 September-2 October 2026, Strasbourg
- 2 November 2026, Vienna, Austria (to be confirmed)
- 4 December 2026, Paris office

The Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment, meeting in Athens on Friday, 5 June 2026, with Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC), Network Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Changing the narrative on environmental issues:** held an exchange of views and a workshop with Ms Alexandra Palt, Researcher on Leadership and Ethics;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** third part-session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg.

The Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine, meeting in Athens on Friday, 5 June 2026, with Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA), Network Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Impact of war on children with disabilities, mental health, rehabilitation and long-term recovery of war-affected children:** held a hearing with Ms Anastasiia Konovalova, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Mr Lefteris Bournousouzis, President of the Attica and Cyclades Regional Department of the Panhellenic Association of Physiotherapists, Ms Foteini Zafeiropoulou, member of the Executive Committee of the European Disability Forum (EDF), Mr Spiros Lambridis, Ambassador, Special Envoy of Greece for Ukraine, Ms Alona Tereshchenko, Director of the Kyiv City Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities, Ms Olesia Samoilenko, Board Member of the Public Union "Network of Parental Organizations" and the NGO "Kolping society of Ukraine" and Ms Elayn Sammon, international expert of the Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine;
- **Date and place of next meeting:** third part-session of the Assembly, 22-26 June 2026, Strasbourg.

Catherine Du Bernard, Aiste Ramanauskaite, Jannick Devaux, Claire Dubois-Hamdi, 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