

AS/Soc (2026) CB06rev

15 September 2026

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

Revised synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 10 September 2026

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Paris on Thursday, 10 September 2026, with Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Towards a family-friendly Europe: policy recommendations for demographic renewal*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Stamatis, Greece, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- ***Towards a coherent European policy on veterans*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Lesia Zaburanna, Ukraine, ALDE*): decided to change the title of the draft report to “Towards coherent policies on veterans in Europe”, considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended and a draft recommendation;
- ***Climate action as a human and democratic responsibility*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum, decided to declassify it and held an exchange of views with Ms Emilie Tamo Kamguia, Member of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth;
- ***Health literacy***: heard a presentation of the “Guide to health literacy - Contributing to trust building and equitable access to healthcare” with the participation of Mr Lee Hibbard, Administrator in the Council of Europe Health Division (*online*);
- ***Democratising the economy: a new frontier for democratic governance*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Saskia Kluit, Netherlands, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Ms Isabelle Ferreras, Associate Research Director at the Universities of Louvain, Oxford and Harvard and Chair of the International High-level Expert Committee on Democracy at Work;
- ***Climate and gender equality – strengthening the protection of women’s rights in the face of climate disruption*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Aurora Florida, Italy, SOC*): held a hearing with:
 - Ms Melanie Hyde, Technical Officer, Gender Equality, Health Equity and Human Rights, WHO/Europe,
 - Ms Joyce Browne, Associate Professor Global Health / Epidemiology, University Medical Center Utrecht (*online*),
 - Ms Chiara Cadeddu, Theme Chair of Planetary Health and Associate Professor, Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam;
- ***Recognition of the right to a healthy environment***: held an exchange of views with Mr Michel Forst, UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention;
- ***European Social Charter***: decided to postpone this item to its next meeting;

– **Committee's work programme:**

- **Appointment of rapporteur:** appointed rapporteurs as follows, subject to the completion of the obligation to update their declaration of interests to include their rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline:
 - ✓ Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) as rapporteur *for report* on “End Israel’s unlawful detention of Palestinian children”,
 - ✓ Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as rapporteur *for opinion* on “Preventing and combating vicarious violence as a form of gender-based violence against women”;
 - ✓ Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) as rapporteur *for report* on “Europe, the fastest-warming continent: accelerating climate action with young people”;
- **Call for candidate of rapporteur for report:** issued a call for candidates for a rapporteur to be appointed at a subsequent meeting on:
 - “Taking action against sexually transmitted infections”,
 - “Territorial cohesion: a strategic imperative for a sustainable Europe”
- **Appointment of Committee representatives to external events:** appointed its members as follows (*subject to the availability of funds*):
 - ✓ Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Ms Sibel Arslan (Switzerland, SOC) (*at no cost to the Assembly*) to participate in the 16th meeting of the COE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights, on 7 October 2026, in Vienna, Austria,
 - ✓ Ms Maria-Gabriela Horga (Romania, EPP/CD) and Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as members and Ms Sibel Arslan (Switzerland, SOC) as substitute member of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the 2026 Anticipation Summit, on 14-15 October 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland,
 - ✓ Mr Szymon Hołownia (Poland, ALDE), in addition to the previously appointed members, to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the World Forum for Democracy, on 2-3 November 2026, in Strasbourg,
 - ✓ Mr Nuno Fazenda (Portugal, SOC) to participate in the EPTA Annual Conference 2026 on Sustainable Urban Mobility, on 2-3 November 2026, in Athens, Greece,
 - ✓ Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE), Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) and Mr Murat Cahid Cingi (Türkiye, NR) to participate in the United Nations Climate Change conference – COP31, including the Parliamentary Meeting organised by the IPU, on 9-20 November 2026 (limited number of days), in Antalya, Türkiye, and Ms Sibel Arslan (Switzerland, SOC) and Baroness Thérèse Coffey (United Kingdom, ECPA) as substitutes;
- **Reports from Committee representatives to external events:** heard back from:
 - ✓ M. Jan Filip Libicki (Poland, EPP/CD) and Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) on their participation in the High-Level Conference on Social Rights - the European Social Charter, on 18-19 March 2026, in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova,
 - ✓ Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) on her participation in the 27th International Workshop on Implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, on 12-13 May 2026, in Ribeira Sacra, Spain;
- **Changes in sub-committees:** approved the following changes:

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize: Mr Sevan Sivacioğlu (Türkiye, NR) became a full member and Mr Christian Petry (Germany, SOC) has been added to the list of former members and honorary members who can represent PACE for the Sub-committee on the Europe Prize;
- **Other business:**
 - gender equality in the functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2025: was informed that the committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination has updated the information memorandum on Gender equality in the functioning of the Assembly; the memorandum has now been published as an addendum to the Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly;
 - meeting of the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine: was informed that the Assembly authorised the Network to hold a meeting in Vienna, Austria, on 3 November 2026;
 - decided to request to be seized *for opinion* on the reports “Strengthening the affective and emotional dimension of comprehensive sexuality education to prevent and combat discrimination, hate crime and gender-based violence” and “Protecting the right to education in Gaza”;

- was informed on the letter from the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities regarding the respect for the confidentiality of Assembly documents;
- **Dates and places of next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:
 - Plenary committee**
 - Fourth part-session of the Assembly, 28 September-2 October 2026, Strasbourg
 - 3 December 2026, Paris office
 - Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize**
 - 2026 Europe Prize presentation ceremony in Reggio Emilia (Italy), 12-13 November 2026
 - Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter**
 - 14 October 2026, Bern, Switzerland
 - Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment**
 - 4 December 2026, Paris office
 - Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine**
 - 16 September 2026, Paris office
 - Fourth part-session of the Assembly, 28 September-2 October 2026, Strasbourg
 - 3 November 2026, Vienna, Austria
 - 4 December 2026, Paris office

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

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