



Declassified¹

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2 October 2025

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Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment

Minutes

of the meeting held in Luxembourg

on Thursday, 13 February 2025, from 2:00 pm to 5.30 pm

1. Election of the Bureau of the Network

Ms Florida, **Chairperson of the Network** opened the meeting and explained the rules for the election of the vice chairperson. She was informed that **Ms Liliana Tanguy** (France, ALDE) and **Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova** (Ukraine, ALDE) were candidates and that a secret ballot was therefore necessary.

Ms Florida gave the floor to Ms Tanguy. She presented her candidacy, expressing her willingness and honour to support the Chair in her duties. An active member of the Network since its creation, she has always worked in favour of environmental issues. As a Member of the French National Assembly, she was co-rapporteur of several major pieces of legislation, notably the *Egalim* law and texts relating to renewable energy. Her commitment has also been evident at the international level, where she contributed to President Emmanuel Macron's declaration at the Reykjavik Summit. Representing a maritime constituency, Ms Tanguy is involved in initiatives related to the protection of the oceans. She contributes to events marking the *Year of the Sea* and will take part in the United Nations Ocean Conference to be held in Nice. Through her experience, commitment and vision, she wishes to continue her work within the Parliamentary Network on the Environment and to support its development.

As Ms Ovchynnykova was unable to be present, her message was read to members by the Chair of the Network:

“Dear colleagues,

I wish to express my interest in the position of Vice-Chair of the Network. First of all, I would like to apologise for not being able to be with you in person. Due to the war in Ukraine, I must attend the plenary sessions of the Ukrainian Parliament, which prevents me from travelling for official engagements.

Since the creation of our Network, we have worked together to achieve common goals. I have confidence in our collaboration and would be honoured to receive your support. My experience in environmental policy and my work within the Council of Europe on protecting the environment through criminal law, as well as in the International Parliamentary Alliance for the Recognition of Ecocide and as a PACE rapporteur, enable me to make a valuable contribution to our work.

I wish to continue our efforts to encourage youth participation and to implement essential environmental resolutions. By strengthening our collaboration, we can advance towards sustainable policies for a healthy environment.”

Following the secret ballot, **Ms Tanguy was elected Vice-Chair of the Network.**

¹The minutes were approved and declassified by the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment at its meeting on 2 October 2025

2. Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes

The draft minutes of the Network meeting held in Strasbourg on 29 January 2025 were approved.

4. Reports from representatives to external events

Ms Floridia invited **Ms Saskia Kluit** to report on her participation, together with **Ms Liliana Tanguy** and **Mr Armen Gevorgyan**, in the plenary meeting of the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, held in Paris from 5 to 7 February 2025. Ms Kluit underlined the added value of the Assembly's participation in this unique global community of legislators and parliamentary staff who meet to exchange best legislative practices. The three participants shared what had particularly struck them during the following sessions of the programme:

I. Adaptation and resilience to climate change: The transition to low-carbon energy by 2050 must go hand in hand with strengthening the adaptation of populations and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change. Integrating biodiversity and supporting vulnerable communities are essential to ensuring a just transition.

Feedback from Network members:

- Opportunities for partnership with Africa despite global geopolitical uncertainty.
- The need for a socially fair transition and stronger support for countries of the Global South.
- The mobilisation of private finance is indispensable to complement public aid.
- The importance of including consumer perspectives in the discussions.

II. Skills for a changing world: The OECD's adult skills survey shows stagnation, or even decline, in basic skills despite educational investment. Many adults struggle to complete basic tasks, which presents a major challenge for adapting to the labour market.

Feedback from Network members:

- Concern at a decline in intellectual capacity and democratic competence.
- The negative influence of social media and new technologies on learning.
- Education must remain a key tool for emancipation and adaptation to global change.

III. Governing with artificial intelligence: OECD countries are investing in artificial intelligence (AI) to improve public governance, increase productivity, and strengthen government accountability. However, they must also anticipate the risks of its use by creating a regulatory framework to ensure ethical and trustworthy AI.

Feedback from parliamentarians:

- AI is profoundly transforming professions and the skills required.
- Few job losses observed so far, but automation risks remain high.
- Urgent need for worker retraining to anticipate labour market changes.
- The need to balance innovation with social justice.

Mr Fridez recalled the recent Resolution 2586 (2025) on *Immigration: one of the responses to Europe's demographic ageing*, stressing that these dynamics represent an opportunity to mobilise valuable human resources. He emphasised the need for Europe not to turn inwards and become a "fortress". He highlighted inequalities in consumption and emissions: while 2 billion people are high greenhouse gas emitters and one quarter of humanity already consumes significantly, 6 billion people aspire to consume more. In view of this reality, he called for major investment in green energy in developing countries, mobilising public funds to support a fairer and more sustainable global energy transition.

Ms Floridia then shared her impressions following her participation in the 3rd meeting of the Multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Group on the Environment (GME), held in Strasbourg from 11 to 12 February 2025. She recalled that she had also attended the 2nd meeting of the GME on 9–11 December 2024. Between the two meetings, thanks to changes within the Secretariat and the contributions of stakeholders, the draft Strategy had evolved considerably and been significantly improved. The GME continued its examination of the Council of Europe's draft Environmental Strategy. On behalf of the Assembly, she reiterated that it had recommended the Committee of Ministers reinstate the issue of the right to food, including access to safe drinking water, as a priority, in cooperation with other relevant international organisations, for example by including it in the elements of the Strategy (Point 8.1, Recommendation 2286 (2024)).

Ms Floridia then reported on the tensions, and indeed divisions, between national delegations wishing to limit themselves to political recognition of the right to a healthy environment — concerned about additional

procedural (reporting) and substantive (positive) obligations — and those who wished to move towards legal recognition of this right. She once again reminded members that the Assembly had called for the Council of Europe to take this position and not remain the only regional human rights system that does not recognise this right in a legally binding text. She reiterated her conviction that the Strategy has a key role to play in continuing reflection on the development of a legally binding instrument, should the Committee of Ministers not respond positively to this request at the ministerial session in May 2025.

5. Letter from the Chairperson of the Network

The Chairperson highlighted the current situation of the Council of Europe concerning the recognition of the right to a healthy environment, a right that this organisation had not yet formally adopted, unlike other regional systems for the protection of human rights. For several decades, the Assembly of the Council of Europe had been calling on member States to take this step. Environmental protection had become a priority for the Council since the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government in Reykjavik in May 2023. Since then, the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) had conducted an in-depth study on the feasibility of one or more new legal instruments concerning human rights and the environment. The conclusions of this study, finalised in November 2024, confirmed the possibility of creating a legally binding instrument, such as an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, an additional protocol to the European Social Charter, or a stand-alone convention.

The discussions had shown that some member states clearly supported the idea of a binding instrument, such as France, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Andorra, Croatia, Liechtenstein, Latvia and Iceland. Others, however, had not yet taken a firm stance and were seeking clarification on the content, nature and implications of the right to a healthy environment. In addition, three member states (Norway, Switzerland and Denmark) had opposed a legally binding approach.

The Committee of Ministers now faced a crucial choice: either to support the development of a binding instrument or to request an in-depth study, which could slow down the process. The Chairperson therefore called on parliamentarians to engage with their respective governments and ensure that the Committee of Ministers' Ministerial Session, scheduled for May 2025, would lead to concrete progress towards the recognition of the right to a healthy environment through a binding legal instrument. **Ms Floridia** emphasised the need for strong action to prevent the process from stagnating.

6. 2025 programme and beyond

The Chair invited members of the Network to continue with a collaborative workshop to gather their ideas on priority themes, their roles, and their needs. As the new Chair, and drawing on her background, she thought it would be interesting to innovate and co-design the work programme together. She expressed her conviction that, working collectively, the Network can shape its direction for 2025 and beyond. The workshop took place in three sessions. The floor was given to the Secretariat, which acted as facilitator.

Session 1: Members' Expectations – Where do we stand?

 Kick-off: What motivates us?

- ◆ Roundtable – Sharing motivation:

Why did you join the Network?

Why are you here today?

 Popcorn Exchange: Identifying obstacles

- ◆ Open discussion – What is holding us back?

Why is participation so low?

What are the main obstacles to engagement?

 Post-it Brainstorming: Let's find solutions together

- ◆ Turning challenges into opportunities!

What actions can we take to move forward?

How can we strengthen engagement and the Network?

Session 2: Defining Priorities – What do we do?

 Framing the discussion: Thematic priorities

- ◆ Presentation & Brainstorming Lab

A PowerPoint highlighted the key themes emerging from ongoing reports.
 What are the emerging issues we should focus on?
 Are there gaps we need to address?

 Post-it Workshop: How do we operate?

- ◆ Collaborative reflection on methodology

Now that we have the themes, how do we turn them into concrete actions?
 What working methods should we adopt?
 How do we ensure efficiency and impact?

 Reference Framework: Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment

- ◆ A PowerPoint presented the Council of Europe's environmental strategy.

Session 3: How do we move into action?

 Think bigger & act better

- ◆ What do we need to be more effective?
- ◆ How can we improve our ways of working?
- ◆ What lessons can we learn from past experiences?

 Sharing best practices & lessons learned

- ◆ Open exchange on past experiences – what worked, what didn't, and how to apply these lessons in the future.

7. Date and place of next meetings

It was agreed that the next network meetings would be held on the following dates:

- Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23 – 27 June 2025, Strasbourg
- 3 December 2025, Paris office

List of decisions

The Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment, meeting in Luxembourg on Thursday, 13 February 2025, with Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC), Network Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

– **Bureau of the Network:**

- elected by secret ballot vote Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) Vice-Chairperson of the Network

– **Participation to external events ::**

- Heard a statement by Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) regarding her participation in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, on 5-7 February 2025 in Paris;
- Heard a statement by Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC) regarding her participation in the 3rd meeting of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) on 11-12 February 2025 in Strasbourg;

– **Letter from the Chairperson of the Network:** heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Network;

– **2025 programme and beyond:** participated in a collaborative workshop on the priority themes of the Network

– **Date and place of the next meeting:**

- Third part of the 2025 session of the Assembly, 23 – 27 June 2025, Strasbourg
- 3 December 2025, Paris office

List of presence / *Liste de présence*

(The names of members who took part in the meeting are in bold / *Les noms des membres ayant pris part à la réunion sont en caractères gras*)

Chairperson / *Présidente* : Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC)
 Vice-Chairperson / *Vice-Présidente* : Mme Liliana Tanguy (France, ADLE)

Member States / *États Membres*

Albania / <i>Albanie</i>		
Andorra / <i>Andorre</i>		
Armenia / <i>Arménie</i>	Mr/M.	Armen Gevorgyan
Austria / <i>Autriche</i>	Mr/M.	Stefan Schennach
	Ms/Mme	Agnes Sirkka Prammer
Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>	Mr/M.	Andries Gryffroy
Bosnia and Herzegovina / <i>Bosnie-Herzégovine</i>	Mr/M.	Saša Magazinović
Bulgaria / <i>Bulgarie</i>		
Croatia / <i>Croatie</i>	Ms/Mme	Zdravka Bušić
Cyprus / <i>Chypre</i>		
Czech Republic / <i>République tchèque</i>		
Denmark / <i>Danemark</i>		
Estonia / <i>Estonie</i>		
Finland / <i>Finlande</i>	Ms/Mme	Minna Reijonen
France	Ms/Mme	Liliana Tanguy
	Mr/M.	Alain Milon
Georgia / <i>Géorgie</i>	Ms/Mme	Eka Sepashvili
Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	Ms/Mme	Franziska Kersten
Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	Mr/M.	George Papandreou
Hungary / <i>Hongrie</i>		
Iceland / <i>Islande</i>	Mr/M.	Bjarni Jónsson
Ireland / <i>Irlande</i>		
	Ms/Mme	Róisín Garvey

Italy / <i>Italie</i>	Mr/M.	Stefano Maullu
	Ms/Mme	Aurora Floridia
Latvia / <i>Lettonie</i>		
Liechtenstein	Mr/M.	Peter Frick
Lithuania / <i>Lituanie</i>	Mr/M.	Arminas Lydeka
Luxembourg	Mr/M.	Paul Galles
Malta / <i>Malte</i>		
Republic of Moldova / <i>République de Moldova</i>		
Monaco		
Montenegro / <i>Monténégro</i>	Mr/M.	Miloš Konatar
Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>	Ms/Mme	Saskia Kluit
	Ms /Mme	Carla Moonen
North Macedonia / <i>Macédoine du Nord</i>		
Norway / <i>Norvège</i>	Ms/Mme	Linda Hofstad Helleland
Poland / <i>Pologne</i>	Ms/Mme	Danuta Jazłowiecka
Portugal		
Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>	Ms/Mme	
	Ms/Mme	Alina Stefania Gorghiu
San Marino / <i>Saint-Marin</i>		
Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>		
Slovak Republic / <i>République slovaque</i>		
Slovenia / <i>Slovénie</i>	Mr/M.	Dean Premik
Spain / <i>Espagne</i>		
Sweden / <i>Suède</i>		
Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>		
Türkiye	Mr/M.	Sevan Sivacioğlu
Ukraine	Ms/Mme	Yuliia Ovchynnykova
United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>		

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Observers / Observateurs

Canada		
Israel / Israël		
Mexico / Mexique		

Partners for Democracy / Partenaires pour la Démocratie

Jordan / Jordanie		
Kyrgyzstan / Kirghizstan		
Morocco / Maroc	Mr/M.	Allal Amraoui
Palestine		

President of the Assembly / Président de l'Assemblée

Ex-Officio Member / Membre d'office	Mr/M.	Theodoros Rousopoulos
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Former President of the Assembly / Ancien Président de l'Assemblée

Ex-Officio Member / Membre d'office	Mr/M.	Tiny Kox
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Presidents of Political Groups / Présidents des groupes politiques

Ex-Officio Members / Membres d'office	Mr/M.	Frank Schwabe
	Mr/M.	Pablo Hispán
	Mr/M.	Zsolt Nemeth
	Mr/M.	Iulian Bulai
	Mr/M.	Andrej Hunko

Pace Committees Concerned / Commissions de l'APCE concernées

Political Affairs /		
Legal Affairs / Questions juridiques		
Migration / Migrations	Mr/M.	Pierre-Alain Fridez
Equality / Égalité	Ms/Mme	Edite Estrela
Culture		

**Bureau of the Committee on Social Affairs /
Bureau de la Commission des Questions Sociales
Ex-Officio Members / Membres d'office**

Chairperson / Président	Ms / Mme	Saskia Kluit
First Vice-Chairperson / Première Vice-Présidente	Ms/Mme	Danuta Jazłowiecka
Second Vice-Chairperson / Deuxième Vice-Président	Mr/M.	Armen Gevorgyan
Third Vice-Chairperson / Troisième Vice-Président	Mr / M.	Lord Don Touhig

**Congress of Local and Regional Authorities /
Congrès des Pouvoirs Locaux et Régionaux**

Thematic Spokesperson on Environment and Climate Change/ <i>Porte-Parole thématique sur l'environnement et le changement climatique</i>		Meropi-Spyridoula Ydraiou
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Secretariat of Delegation or of Political Group / Secrétariat de Délégation ou de Groupe politique

Ms / *Mme* Sonja Langenhaeck, Belgique
 Mr / *M.* Cédric Scarpellini, Luxembourg

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Ms / *Mme* Louise Barton, Director of Committees / *Directrice des commissions*

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

Ms / *Mme* Catherine Du-Bernard Rochy Head of the Secretariat / *Cheffe du Secrétariat*
 Ms / *Mme* Claire Dubois-Hamdi Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*
 Ms / *Mme* Grazia-Alessandra Siino Project Manager / *Chargée de projet*
 Ms / *Mme* Ozgü Tan Assistant/ Assistante
 Ms / *M.* Stefan Stankovic Project Assistant