



Information documents

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27 June 2023

Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1470th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (28 June 2023)

¹ This document covers the activities of the Assembly since the meeting of the Bureau on 19 June 2023 and future activities up to the meeting of the Bureau on 14 September 2023 (Paris).

I. Third part of the Ordinary Session of 2023 (19 - 23 June 2023)

A. Assembly's response to the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine

During the June part-session (Appendix I), two major Resolutions dealing with the consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine were adopted. With the adoption of [Resolution 2506 \(2023\)](#) on "Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine", the Parliamentary Assembly recognised that one of the main political consequences of the aggression is that it has forged a renewed bond amongst democracies in support of Ukraine. The Reykjavik Summit, parliamentarians highlighted, is the expression of this unity around common values, and of the resolve to support Ukraine as long as it takes. The Resolution also underlined that supporting Ukraine should be a political imperative for the Council of Europe and its member States, not only as an issue of rule of law and international justice, but also to protect democratic security in Europe. In this context, the Assembly also set a number of priorities and recommended in particular to: step up assistance to Ukraine, including by contributing to the Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" 2023-2026; complete and implement a comprehensive system of accountability of the Russian Federation and its allies; step up diplomatic efforts to isolate the Russian Federation and Belarus as its accomplice in the war of aggression against Ukraine; counter the false narratives about the war of aggression and the sanction system; tackle legal gaps and loopholes in the sanction system; as well as to strengthen Europe's democratic security and resilience against external threats.

By adopting [Resolution 2507 \(2023\)](#) on "War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics", the Assembly called on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its constituent sports bodies to maintain the position expressed in 2022, and to prohibit the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games and all other major sporting events as long as the Russian Federation's war of aggression continues. The Assembly stated that any participation in the current context is unthinkable, underlying it would certainly be used as a tool of propaganda and would *de facto* prevent other athletes – not least Ukrainian ones – from participating. The Assembly also stressed that IOC's efforts to establish a set of criteria allowing these athletes to take part as neutral, individual competitors cannot provide the necessary guarantees, and will not constitute a response worthy of the values of human dignity and peace enshrined in the Olympic Charter. The arguments for permitting their participation on the grounds of neutrality, the independence of sport and non-discrimination do not carry sufficient weight faced with the imperative of condemning and repudiating the atrocities being committed, and of demonstrating the international community's complete and unwavering support for Ukraine as the onslaught continues. The parliamentarians also pointed out that Russian and Belarusian elite athletes received state salaries and were often part of military sports teams and underlined that it seems impossible that they could demonstrate their neutrality and distance from these regimes, let alone make any declaration against the war.

B. Follow-up to the Reykjavík Summit

The Assembly was one of the strongest voices calling for a fourth Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government, a call amplified in the wake of the large-scale war of aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in February 2022. During the months of the run-up to the Reykjavik Summit of 16-17 May 2023, the Assembly played an active role in the discussions and preparation of the directions and outcomes, in particular through its [Recommendation 2245 \(2023\)](#). It also had a first exchange on the outcome of the Reykjavik Summit during its Standing Committee in Riga, at the end of which it adopted a [Declaration](#). In order to ensure that its work is firmly oriented towards the successful implementation of the Summit decisions, thus bringing forward the

parliamentary dimension at multilateral and national level, the Assembly has now taken the [Reykjavik Declaration](#) as a roadmap for setting its priorities for the coming months and years. As a first step, during the June part-session, each Assembly Committee discussed how to concretely adapt its work plan to implement the priorities set in Reykjavik. The outcome of these discussions was presented during the Bureau meeting on 23 June 2023 in the form of a memorandum and an informal action plan document (Appendix III and IV). The Bureau of the Assembly will in fact have a special responsibility to promote the coordination and synergy of the work of the Assembly's committees' and other structures; to streamline the Assembly's work programme and to regularly take stock of the implementation of the Summit outcomes by the Assembly. At this end, a regular item on the follow-up to the Summit will figure on each future meeting of the Bureau. The President of the Assembly, Mr Tiny Kox, will ensure close coordination with Committees Chairs by convening an informal meeting with all Chairpersons of Committees during every part-session. The follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit was also at the heart of the discussions in the Joint Committee held on Thursday 22 June 2023.

The sections on the Parliamentary Assembly in the draft Programme and Budget 2024-27 will reflect its objectives in contributing actively to the Reykjavik priorities and follow-up in line with the [Assembly's Opinion](#) on the budget and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027 (Rapporteur: Ms Ingjerd SCHOU, Norway, EPP/CD), adopted by the Assembly on 21 June 2023. In adopting the Opinion, the Assembly also underlined that given the depth of the priorities set by the leaders of the member States at the 4th Summit, the Council of Europe should be granted resources that are commensurate with the level of member States' political ambition for the Organisation. During the session, the Assembly's [expenditure needs for 2024-2025](#) have also been reviewed and tailored in order to request resources which will allow it to respond to these readjusted political priorities. In particular, the Assembly will continue to provide support to Ukraine, including through interparliamentary co-operation, and to address the political, legal and human rights consequences, as well as to secure accountability. Moreover, the Assembly will focus on parliamentary co-operation and provision of support to member States and their parliaments in delivering a number of key priorities identified in the Reykjavik Declaration. Notably, its priorities will include the support to the implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, securing accountability and preventing impunity for the crime of aggression and war crimes, crimes against humanity and grave human rights violations committed during the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, counteracting democratic backsliding and providing early warning and rapid reaction, as well as addressing the new generation of rights, including regarding the environment and the use of artificial intelligence and emerging digital technologies.

C. Personalities

The following personalities addressed the Assembly (in chronological order):

Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Question time)

Mr Péter SZIJJÁRTÓ, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

Mr Edgars RINKĒVIČS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and Chair of the Committee of Ministers

Ms Sviatlana TSIKHANOUSKAYA, Leader of the Belarusian democratic opposition, in the framework of the debate on Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile

Her Excellency Ms Nataša PIRC MUSAR, President of Slovenia

Their speeches can be found on the website of the Assembly: <http://assembly.coe.int>.

D. Current affairs debate and debates under urgent procedure

The Assembly held a current affairs debate on “**Recent political developments in Poland**” on Tuesday 20 June 2023.

The Assembly also held three debates under urgent procedure on “**Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine**”, on “**War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics?**”, and on “**Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor**” on Thursday 22 June 2023.

E. Media coverage

The 2023 summer session generated a moderate amount of media coverage, in line with previous summer sessions, with around 28 journalists accredited in Strasbourg to report on it. Most coverage was in Ukraine.

The Assembly’s positions on the political consequences of the war in Ukraine – and call for a ban on Russians and Belarusians taking part in the forthcoming Olympics and Paralympics – generated the most coverage, including in international media. Other topics to be widely covered were the Assembly’s debates and resolutions on the challenges faced by Belarusians in exile, including the address by Ms Tsikhanouskaya, and ensuring free access through the Lachin corridor.

On social media, the impact was similar. There were just under 340,000 Twitter impressions over session week. There were around 7,500 views on YouTube, amounting to around 382 hours of “watch time”, and a little over 2,200 impressions on Facebook.

F. Adopted texts

Further to debates, the Assembly adopted the following texts:

Opinion

Opinion 301 (2023)	Budgets and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027 (Doc. 15780)
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Recommendations

Recommendation 2255 (2023)	Health and social protection of undocumented workers or those in an irregular situation (Doc. 15784)
Recommendation 2256 (2023)	Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor (Doc. 15796)
Recommendation 2257 (2023)	Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights (Doc. 15787)

Resolutions

Resolution 2499 (2023)	Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile (Doc. 15783)
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Resolution 2500 (2023)	Public health emergency: the need for a holistic approach to multilateralism and health care (Doc. 15778)
Resolution 2501 (2023)	Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2024-2025 (Doc. 15781)
Resolution 2502 (2023)	Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved (Doc. 15785)
Resolution 2503 (2023)	Social inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons through sport (Doc. 15786)
Resolution 2504 (2023)	Health and social protection of undocumented workers or those in an irregular situation (Doc. 15784)
Resolution 2505 (2023)	UK reform of its human rights legislation: consequences for domestic and European Human Rights protection (Doc. 15782)
Resolution 2506 (2023)	Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine (Doc. 15797)
Resolution 2507 (2023)	War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics? (Doc. 15795)
Resolution 2508 (2023)	Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor (Doc. 15796)
Resolution 2509 (2023)	Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights (Doc. 15787)
Resolution 2510 (2023)	Closing the digital divide: promoting equal access to digital technologies (Doc. 15776)

All these texts can be found on the web site of the Assembly: <http://assembly.coe.int>.

II. Hearings and exchanges of views organised during the part-session

Monday 19 June 2023	
1.00 – 2.00 pm Room 8, Palais Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	<p>► Exchange of views on: “War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?”, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Linda Hofstad Helleland (Norway, EPP/CD)</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Tuesday 20 June 2023	
8.30 – 10.30 am Room 11, Palais Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	<p>► Exchange of views on “Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile”, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Paul Galles (Luxembourg, EPP/CD)</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Valery Kavaleuski, Representative for Foreign Affairs, Deputy Head of the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus

<p>9.15 – 10.30 am Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “The right to freedom of information: ensuring access to historical documents”, in the context of the report prepared by Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC)</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Boriss Cilevičs, former Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
<p>10.30 – 11.30 am Room 6, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>► Exchange of views , on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities</p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention
<p>10.30 – 11.30 am Room 9, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p>	<p>► Hearing - Dialogue with Belarusian democratic forces in the context of the preparation of the report on “Call for a national political reform process in Belarus” prepared by Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC)</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic forces - Mr Ivan Kravtsov, Executive Secretary, member of the Coordination Council, Razam ‘Together’ Party - Mr Anatol Liabedzka, Adviser to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on constitutional reform and parliamentary co-operation, United Civil (Civic) Party <p>Also present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Violaine Billette de Villemeur, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Belarus
<p>11.30 am – 12.30 pm Room 9, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p>	<p>► Hearing on “The challenge of far-right ideology to democracy and human rights in Europe” in the context of the preparation of the report by Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA)</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Nicos Alivizatos (Greece), Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)
<p>11.00 am – 12.30 pm Room 10, Palais</p> <p>Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member</p>	<p>► Joint hearing on “SLAPPs as a threat to media pluralism and measures implemented to counteract them”</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Pier Luigi Parcu, Director, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, European University Institute, Florence, Italy

<p>States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Giulia Lucchese, Media and Internet Governance Division, Information Society Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe - Mr Stefan Schennach, Rapporteur on “Countering SLAPPS: an imperative for a democratic society”, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media
<p>12.00 – 12.30 pm</p> <p>Room 6, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers” in the context of the preparation of a report by Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE)</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Sarah Mann, Director, Friends, Families and Travellers, United Kingdom
<p>12.45 – 13.45 pm</p> <p>Room 11, Palais</p> <p>Women@PACE group</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “women’s political participation”</p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition
Wednesday 21 June 2023	
<p>10.30 – 11.30 am</p> <p>Room 9, Palais</p> <p>Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p>	<p>► Joint hearing on “the financing of political parties”</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Julia Cagé, Associate Professor of Economics, Sciences Po Paris (online) - Mr Nicos Alivizatos (Greece), Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) - Ms Sophie Meudal-Leenders, Senior Legal Adviser, Secretariat of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)
<p>10.30 am – 12.00 pm</p> <p>Room 6, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “Budgets and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027” in the context of the preparation of the Parliamentary Assembly’s Opinion on the budget and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027 by Ms Ingjerd Schou (Norway, EPP/CD)</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

<p>11.30 am – 12.30pm Room 9, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p> <p>and</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p>	<p>► Hearing on issues confronting Russians in exile</p> <p>(Follow-up to Assembly Resolutions 2433 (2022) and 2473 (2022))</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Gennady Gudkov, Deputy of the State Duma of 3, 4, 5, and 6 convocations; Deputy Chairman of the Security Committee (2001-2012); Leader of the People's Party of Russia (2003-2008); Chairman of the NGO "For Free Russia" - Ms Karinna Moskalenko, Russian lawyer; founder of the Centre de la Protection Internationale - Ms Ekaterina Shulman, Russian political scientist; publicist - Ms Daria Belova, Chairman of the initiative to help refugees "inTransit"; representative of the Ark (Kovcheg) <p>Also present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Mariia Novikova, human rights lawyer; Secretary of the Russian Democratic Club in France - Ms Elena Colombo, Co-founder of the Association for assistance to Russian asylum seekers in France (Russie-Asile) - Mr Alexey Obolenets, lawyer and human rights defender
<p>Thursday 22 June 2023</p>	
<p>9.30 – 10.30 am Room 7, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>► Joint hearing with the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe on “Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe”, in the context of the preparation of a report by Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC)</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director, LGL, Lithuania - Florina Presadă, Executive Director, Accept Romania - Claire Vandendriessche, Spokesperson, Acceptess-T, France
<p>9.30 – 10.30 am Room 11, Palais</p> <p>Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “Recent developments in the Middle East”</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Meirav Ben Ari, Chairperson of the Observer delegation of Israel to the Parliamentary Assembly - Mr Boaz Bismuth, member of the Observer delegation of Israel to the Parliamentary Assembly - Mr Bernard Sabella, Chairperson, Palestinian partner for democracy delegation

<p>10.30 am – 12.30 pm Room 6, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p>	<p>► Hearing on “Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace” in the context of a report prepared by Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), and “Online education and special education needs of children with disabilities and learning difficulties”, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Pavlo Sushko (Ukraine, EC/DA)</p> <p>with the online participation of experts in Ukraine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Sergii Gorbachov, Education Ombudsman – Mr Viktor Pendalchuk, Principal of Kakhovka’s secondary school №1, Kherson region – Ms Lesia Prokhorenko, Director of Mykola Yarmachenko Institute for Special Pedagogy and Psychology, NAPS – Ms Oksana Yakymiv, Director of the Vygoda Special School of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Council
<p>12.45 – 1.45 pm Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment</p>	<p>► Exchange of views</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Michel Forst, UN Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders under the Aarhus Convention

III. Meetings of the Bureau (19 June and 23 June 2023)

The Bureau of the Assembly, [meeting](#) on Monday 19 June 2023:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and held an exchange of views with the Secretary General;
- **Follow-up to the Standing Committees (Reykjavik on 15 May 2023, and Riga on 25 May 2023):** heard a presentation by the Secretary General of the Assembly and took note that:
 - immediate follow-up had been given to the Standing Committee in Reykjavik and to the 4th Summit of Heads of States and Governments by holding both a current affairs debate and adopting a Declaration on the Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit at the Standing Committee in Riga;
 - further follow-up would be given during the current part-session, in particular by holding exchange of views on the follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit at Committee level, at the Joint Committee, as well as at a meeting of the Chairpersons of Committees convened by the President;
 - the leaders of the five political groups proposed to follow-up on the Riga Standing Committee by holding a debate under urgent procedure on War of aggression against Ukraine – participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes;
- **Third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June):**
 - Requests for debates under urgent procedure: took note of the requests to hold debates on

- *Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor*, tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and to refer the matter to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons for report;
 - *Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, and *War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?*, tabled by the leaders of the five political groups, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold these debates as a joint debate, and to refer the matter respectively for report to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media.
- Request for a current affairs debate: took note of the request to hold a debate on *Recent political developments in Poland*, tabled by the leaders of the five political groups, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and that the debate be jointly opened by the co-Rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, Mr Pieter Omtzigt and Ms Azadeh Rojhan;
 - Draft agenda: updated the draft agenda ;
 - Joint Committee (Strasbourg, 22 June 2023): prepared the meeting of the Joint Committee;
- **Petition:** considered the information note from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the admissibility of the petition, and decided not to give a follow-up to this petition;
 - **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the following references and transmissions, subject to ratification by the Assembly:
 1. A parliamentary sponsorship programme between the Parliamentary Assembly members and human rights defenders or the politically oppressed, [Doc. 15752](#), Motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for consultation*
 2. Ending the abuse of politically motivated prosecutions by the State prosecution service in Poland, [Doc. 15755](#), Motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Poland”*
 3. The role of youth revitalising democracy, [Doc. 15756](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion*
 4. Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, [Doc. 15758](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*
 5. Impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market, [Doc. 15759](#), Motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*
 6. Complicity of the Republic of Belarus in the illegal transfer of Ukrainian children from the occupied territories of Ukraine, [Doc. 15769](#), Motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for information*
 7. On private military companies, mercenaries, foreign fighters and their impact on human rights, [Doc. 15771](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

- **Election observation**
 - Türkiye: Presidential and parliamentary elections (14 and 28 May 2023): approved the report by the observation mission (Doc. 15793);
 - Montenegro: parliamentary elections (11 June 2023): took note of the [statement](#) by the observation mission;
 - Poland: parliamentary elections (October 2023, tbc): subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-6; EPP/CD-6; ALDE-4; EC/DA-3; UEL-1), as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee, and to conduct a pre-electoral observation mission;
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (28 April – 18 June 2023)**: approved the Progress report (Doc. 15791);
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris**: authorised the Sub-committee on the Europe Prize of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Bolesławiec, Poland, on 18-19 August 2023.

The Bureau of the Assembly, [meeting](#) on Friday 23 June 2023:

- **Communication**: took note of the statement by the President of the Assembly;
- **Follow-up to the third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June)**: approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly to texts adopted by the Assembly, as set out in Appendix II;
- **Follow-up to the 4th Council of Europe Heads of State and Government Summit (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023)**:
 - heard a presentation by the Director of Human Dignity and Sustainable Development;
 - took note of a memorandum on the Parliamentary Assembly's follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe (16-17 May 2023);
 - held an exchange of views;
 - decided to make a regular stock-taking on the progress by each committee as regards the follow-up to the Summit by putting this item as a regular item on each of its meetings;
 - took note of the President's intention to convene a meeting of the enlarged dialogue;
- **References and transmissions to committees**: approved the following references and transmissions, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

- Protecting political bodies in Europe from organised crime, [Doc. 15760](#): *no further action*
- Establishment of an Order of the European solidarities, [Doc. 15770](#): reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*
- Denouncing ideology and practices of Ruscism in Europe, [Doc. 15772](#): transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*
- The detention of Julian Assange and its chilling effects on human rights, [Doc. 15777](#): transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for consultation*

- Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment with the Reykjavík process, [Doc. 15804](#): *reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for report*
- Bureau decision, current affairs debate on The recent political developments in Poland: transmission to the Monitoring Committee *to be taken into account in the preparation of its report* on “The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland”
- Bureau decision: [resolution 2506 \(2023\)](#) on Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* on the same subject
- Bureau decision, [resolution 2507 \(2023\)](#) on War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics?: transmission to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *to be taken into account in the preparation of its report* on “Excluding the athletes and officials of the Russian Federation and Belarus from participating in the international Olympic movement”
- Bureau decision, [resolution 2508 \(2023\)](#) on Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor: transmission to the Monitoring committee *to be taken into account in the preparation of its reports* on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia” and on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan”

B. EXTENSION OF REFERENCES

- Towards Council of Europe seas and oceans strategies against the climate crisis, [Doc. 15327](#) Reference 4596 of 27 September 2021 – validity : 27 September 2023: extension until 27 March 2024.
- Right of the child to protection while using the internet, [Doc. 15383](#), Reference 4614 of 30 September 2021 – validity : 30 September 2023 : extension until 30 March 2024.
- Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life, [Doc. 15291](#), Reference 4590 of 21 June 2021 – validity : 21 juin 2023: extension until 21 June 2024.
- The situation of national minorities in Ukraine, [Doc. 15334](#), Reference 4603 of 27 September 2021 – validity : 27 September 2023: extension until 27 September 2024.
- The need for renewed, effective and inclusive multilateralism, [Doc. 15332](#), Reference 4601 of 27 September 2021 – validity : 27 September 2023: extension until 27 September 2024.
- Call for Famagusta’s return to its lawful inhabitants, [Doc. 15333](#), Reference 4602 of 27 September 2021 – validity : 27 September 2023 : extension until 27 September 2024.
- Political situation in Tunisia, [Doc. 15384](#), Reference 4615 of 30 September 2021 – validity : 30 September 2023 : extension until 30 September 2024.

– Elections observation

- Poland: parliamentary elections (October 2023): decided to enlarge the composition of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections to 30 members (SOC-10 ; EPP/CD-9 ; ALDE-5; EC/DA-5; UEL-1), as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee, approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee, and designated Ms Mireille CLAPOT (France, ALDE) as its chairperson;
- **Date of the Assembly April 2024 part-session:** revised the date of its Spring 2024 part-session and decided that it will be held on 15-19 April 2024;

- **Dates of Assembly part-sessions (2026 – 2028):** approved the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: took note of the letter by the committee and decided to authorise Ms Aurora FLORIDIA (Italy, SOC), Ms Eka SEPASHVILI (Georgia, EC/DA) and, at no cost for the Assembly, Mr Jean-Pierre GRIN (Switzerland, ALDE), to represent the Assembly at the United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP28, including the Parliamentary Meeting to be organised by the IPU on 30 November 2023 (Dubai, UAE, 30 November to 12 December 2023) – (limited to 3 days and subject to the availability of funds);
- **Side Event “Decent work: building a sustainable future” to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New-York, 14 July 2023):** approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee and designated Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE (Türkiye, SOC) as its chairperson;);
- **Campaign on safety of journalists (Riga, 5-6 October 2023):** approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee and designated Mr Mogens JENSEN (Denmark, SOC) as its chairperson;
- **2023 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November):** approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee and designated the President of the Assembly as its chairperson;
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (24 June – 8 October 2023):** appointed Mr Aleksander POCIEJ (Poland, EPP/DC) as rapporteur;
- **Budgetary matters - Analysis of the use made by the Assembly’s political groups of their allocations for 2022:** approved the draft communication submitted by the Committee on Rules of Procedures, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, and instructed the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly to put forward specific modalities, in view of applying the new arrangements for the distribution of the allocation in 2024;
- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) - Lists of candidates in respect of Andorra, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia:** approved the lists of candidates in respect of these countries to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers.

IV. Prizes

The presentation ceremony of the **European Diplomas** was held on Thursday, 22 June 2023.

2023 European Diplomas awarded (by alphabetical order of countries) to:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo (Sarajevo Canton)

Germany

Krefeld (North Rhine-Westphalia)

Markt Kleinwallstadt (Bavaria)

Siegen (North Rhine-Westphalia)

Italy

Borriana	(Province of Biella, Piedmont region)
Castagnole delle Lanze	(Province of Asti, Piedmont region)
Gaglianico	(Province of Biella, Piedmont region)
Graglia	(Province of Biella, Piedmont region)
Massazza	(Province of Biella, Piedmont region)
Ponza	(Lazio region)
Verrone	(Province of Biella, Piedmont region)

Türkiye

Kadıköy	(Istanbul province)
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V. Future activities of Committees and Networks

- On 8 September 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**:
 - . will hold a hearing on *Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress*, in the context of a report prepared by Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA), with the participation of invited experts;
 - . will hold a hearing on *Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Davor Ivo Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD), with the participation of invited experts. The focus of this first hearing for this report will be on the Wagner group.
- On 11 September 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**
 - . will hold a hearing on *Interconnections between the Council of Europe and the European Political Community*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), with the participation of invited experts.
 - . enlarged to include delegations of national parliaments of OECD member States which are not members of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, will hold a hearing on *Globalisation in times of crises and war: The role of the OECD since the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr George Katrougalos, (Greece, UEL) with the participation of invited experts.
- On 12 September 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**
 - . will hold a hearing on *Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro (Spain, EPP/CD), with the participation of invited experts.

- On 15 September 2023, in Paris the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:**
 - . will hold an exchange of views on *Racism and Intolerance in Europe*, with the participation of Ms Maria Daniella Marouda, Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI);
 - . will hold a hearing on *Protecting women human rights defenders and people who defend women's rights in Europe*, in the context of the preparation of a report by Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), with the participation of invited experts.

VI. Fact-finding visits in the framework of the preparation of reports

- ***Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers***

Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, will carry out a fact-finding visit to Romania during the **second week of July 2023** (exact dates to be confirmed).

- ***Child abuse in Europe: addressing, compensation and prevention***

Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*, will carry out a fact-finding visit to Romania in **September 2023**.

VII. Seminars and conferences organised by the Assembly

- **22-23 June 2023, Strasbourg, France:** the PACE Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division organised a seminar entitled "*Information seminar on the Council of Europe for a delegation of senior officials from the Parliament of Morocco*" in the framework of the joint programme with the European Union "*Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco*".
- **12 July 2023, Rabat, Maroc:** the PACE Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division will organise a "*Steering Committee of the Joint EU/CoE programme*" in the framework of the joint programme with the European Union "*Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco*".

VIII. Co-operation with the Committee of Ministers

- On 4 July 2023, **Ms Ingjerd Schou** (Norway, EPP/CD), General rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly on the budget and intergovernmental programme, will participate in an exchange of views with the Rapporteur Group of the Committee of Ministers on Programme, Budget and Administration (GR-PBA) in Strasbourg.

IX. Co-operation with the Venice Commission

- On 20 June 2023, the **Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)** agreed to request to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) an urgent opinion on the Law on the State Commission to investigate Russian influence on the internal security of the Republic of Poland between 2007 and 2022, as well as on the amendments to this law proposed by President Duda as adopted by the Sejm on 16 June 2023.

- On 20 June 2023, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** held a hearing in the context of the preparation of the report on *The challenge of far-right ideology to democracy and human rights in Europe* (rapporteur: Mr Samad Seyidov, Azerbaijan, EC/DA), with the participation of Mr Nicos Alivizatos (Greece), Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).
- On 21 June 2023, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** in a joint meeting with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, held a hearing on *The financing of political parties*, with the participation of Mr Nicos Alivizatos (Greece), Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).
- On 22 June 2023, the **Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)** agreed to request to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) an opinion on amendments to the organic Law on Common courts as adopted by the Georgian Parliament on 13 June 2023.

X. External relations

- Relations with other international partners

- On 14 July 2023, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development** is organising a side event on “Decent work: building a sustainable future” during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (USA), with contributions by members of all PACE committees concerned.

XI. List of meetings of the committees, the Bureau and the Presidential Committee

- . **18-19 August 2023:** *Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize*, official 2023 Europe Prize presentation ceremony, Bolesławiec, Poland
- . **8 September 2023:** *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*
- . **11-12 September 2023:** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
- . **13 September 2023:** *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*
- . **13 September 2023:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **14 September 2023:** *Bureau*
- . **14-15 September 2023:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*

Appendix I – Agenda of the third part of the 2023 Ordinary Session (19-23 June 2023)



Doc. 15779
22 June 2023

Third part of the 2023 Ordinary Session (19-23 June 2023)

Agenda¹

The plenary sittings will be held in the European Parliament Hemicycle.

1. Adopted by the Assembly on 19 June 2023.



Monday 19 June 2023

Sitting No. 15 (14:30-17:30)

1. Opening of the part-session

1.1. Statement by the President

1.2. Examination of credentials

- ☐ List of delegations:
 - o (Doc. 15792)

1.3. Changes in the membership of committees (Commissions(2023)06rev)

1.4. Requests for debate:

1.4.1. Urgent procedure debate: "Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor"

1.4.2. Urgent procedure debate: "Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"

1.4.3. Urgent procedure debate: "War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?"

1.4.4. Current affairs debate: "Recent political developments in Poland"

1.5. Adoption of the agenda

1.6. Approval of the minutes of the Standing Committee (Reykjavík, 15 May 2023 (AS/Per(2023)PV02) and Riga, 26 May 2023 (AS/Per(2023)PV03))


2. Debate

2.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. 15791, Doc. 15791 Add. 1, Doc. 15791 Add 2)


2.2. Observation of the parliamentary and presidential elections in Türkiye (14 and 28 May 2023)

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Frank SCHWABE (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. 15793)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 12:00)


3. Question time (16:00-16:30)

3.1. Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

 Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 12:00)

4. Address (16:30-17:30)

4.1. Mr Péter SZIJJÁRTÓ, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

 Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 12:00)

Tuesday 20 June 2023

Sitting No. 16 (14:15-20:00)


5. Ceremony² (14:15-14:30)

6. Address (14:30-15:30)

6.1. Communication from the Committee of Ministers

Presentation by:

- o Mr Edgars RINKĒVIČS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and Chair of the Committee of Ministers

 Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 16:30)

7. Debate


7.1. Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile


Presentation by:


- o Mr Paul GALLES (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15783)

Statement by:

- o Ms Sviatlana TSIKHANOUSKAYA, Leader of the Belarusian democratic opposition


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 16:30)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 16 June, 14:30)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15783)

8. Current affairs debate

8.1. Recent political developments in Poland


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 17:30)


9. Debate


9.1. Public health emergency: the need for a holistic approach to multilateralism and health care

Presentation by:

- o Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE (Türkiye, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15778)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 19 June, 16:30)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 16 June, 14:30)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15778)

2. Performance of the Volny Chor (Belarus).

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Sitting No. 17 (14:30-20:00)

10. Address (14:30-15:30)

10.1. Her Excellency Ms Nataša PIRC MUSAR, President of Slovenia

📅 Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 20 June, 19:00)

11. Joint debate

11.1. Budgets and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Ingjerd SCHOU (Norway, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pro (Doc. 15780)

11.2. Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2024-2025

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Ingjerd SCHOU (Norway, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pro (Doc. 15781)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 20 June, 19:00)

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 19 June, 14:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft opinion (Doc. 15780)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15781)

12. Joint debate

12.1. Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ (Croatia, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15785)

12.2. Social inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons through sport

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Nigar ARPADARAI (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15786)

12.3. Health and social protection of undocumented workers or those in an irregular situation

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Ada MARRA (Switzerland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15784)
- o Ms Arusyak JULHAKYAN (Armenia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Mig (Doc. 15794)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 20 June, 19:00)

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 19 June, 14:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15785)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15786)

🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15784)

13. Debate

13.1. UK reform of its human rights legislation: consequences for domestic and European Human Rights protection

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Kamal JAFAROV (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15782)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 20 June, 19:00)

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 19 June, 14:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15782)

Thursday 22 June 2023

Sitting No. 18 (16:00-20:00)

14. Joint debate under urgent procedure

14.1. Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine


☐ Presentation by:


- o Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol ([Doc. 15797](#))


14.2. War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics?


☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Linda Hofstad HELLELAND (Norway, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Cult ([Doc. 15795](#))

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 21 June, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 21 June, 14:30)

 Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 15797](#))


 Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 15795](#))


15. Debate under urgent procedure


15.1. Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Paul GAVAN (Ireland, UEL), Rapporteur AS/Mig ([Doc. 15796](#))

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 21 June, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 21 June, 14:30)

 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation ([Doc. 15796](#))

Friday 23 June 2023

Sitting No. 19 (10:00-13:00)

16. Debate

16.1. Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights

- Presentation by:
 - o Sir Christopher CHOPE (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Jur ([Doc. 15787](#))
- 📖 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 22 June, 19:00)
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 21 June, 10:00)
- 🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation ([Doc. 15787](#))

17. Debate

17.1. Closing the digital divide: promoting equal access to digital technologies

- Presentation by:
 - o Ms Edite ESTRELA (Portugal, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Ega ([Doc. 15776](#))
- 📖 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 22 June, 19:00)
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 21 June, 10:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 15776](#))

18. Progress report (continued)

18.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (continued)

- Addendum:
 - o ([Doc. 15791 Add 3](#))

19. Closure of the part-session

Appendix II - Follow-up to the third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June)

Debate on “The recent political developments in Poland”

- ❖ Follow up: decided to refer the matter to the Monitoring Committee on this issue to be taken into account in the preparation of its report on “The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland”

Debate on “Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine”

- ❖ Follow up: decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for a new report on “Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine”

para 24.1 “resolves to establish channels of dialogue and co-operation with Russian forces and civil society who aspire to a democratic change in Russia, who share Council of Europe values, and who support the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including the Russian Action Committee”

- ❖ Follow up: decided to invite the Presidential Committee to continue dialogue, and explore possibilities for further cooperation with Russian forces and civil society who aspire to a democratic change in Russia

Debate under the urgent procedure on “War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics?”

- ❖ Follow up: decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on this issue to be taken into account in the preparation of its report on “Excluding the athletes and officials of the Russian Federation and Belarus from participating in the international Olympic movement”

Debate under the urgent procedure on “Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor”

- ❖ Follow up: decided to refer the matter to the Monitoring Committee on this issue to be taken into account in the preparation of its reports on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia” and on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan”

Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile

- ❖ Follow up: instructed the Secretary General of the Assembly to look into the possibility to put an office on the 5th floor of the Palais de l’Europe at the disposal of the delegation of representatives of Belarusian democratic forces during part-sessions

Joint debate on “Budgets and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027” and “Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2024-2025”

- ❖ Follow up: decided that the President will address a letter to the heads of national delegations to ask them to bring this issue to the attention of their national parliaments.

Bureau of the Assembly

AS/Bur (2023) 41
22 June 2023

Memorandum

Prepared by the Secretariat, under the instructions of the President

UNITED AROUND OUR VALUES

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY FOLLOW-UP TO THE REYKJAVIK SUMMIT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (16-17 MAY 2023)

1. Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Assembly was one of the strongest voices calling for a fourth Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government, a call amplified in the wake of the large-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine in February 2022.

During the months of the run-up to the Reykjavik Summit of 16-17 May 2023, the Assembly played an active role in the discussions and preparation of the directions and outcomes, in particular through its Recommendation [2245 \(2023\)](#) “The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe – United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges”, prepared by Ms Fiona O’Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy with the input of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, which included all the Chairpersons of the Assembly’s Committees.

2. The Rapporteur and the Ad Hoc Committee worked with great intensity, in a constant dialogue with the Secretary General, the rapporteur of the High-Level Reflection Group, Mr Venizelos, and the Committee of Ministers, through meetings of the Joint Committee and an exchange in GT-SOM04. In various formats, the Assembly held several debates to feed into its final contributions, in plenary part-sessions and meetings of its Standing Committee.

The key imperative of ensuring the accountability of the Russian Federation was raised by the Assembly as from its [Opinion to the Committee of Ministers of 16 March 2022](#) which led to the exclusion of Russia from the Council of Europe the following day, and was developed in a comprehensive way in a number of reports prepared by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee. In fact, the Assembly was the first international institution to take a clear position in favour of the creation of a Special Tribunal on the Crime of Aggression.

3. The Standing Committee of the Assembly met in Reykjavik on 15 May to provide a parliamentary dimension to the Summit. An Assembly delegation composed of its President, the Presidential Committee and the Rapporteur, Ms O’Loughlin, attended the Summit.

At its meeting in Riga on 26 May, the Standing Committee welcomed the outcomes of the Summit, and adopted a [Declaration](#) setting out the broad lines of its own follow-up to the priorities of the [Reykjavik Declaration](#).

4. In order to ensure that its work is oriented firmly towards the successful implementation of the Summit decisions, thus bringing forward the parliamentary dimension at multilateral and national level, the Assembly will now take the Reykjavik Declaration as a roadmap for setting its priorities for the coming months and years.

2. Priorities

5. While many areas of work relevant to the Summit actions are already underway, others may be strengthened or added.

Accordingly, the Assembly will give high priority to:

- its firm commitment and concrete actions to support Ukraine and ensure accountability of the Russian Federation;
- supporting the European Court of Human Rights and the Execution of Judgments as the cornerstone of all the Council of Europe's work and promoting European Union accession to the European Court of Human Rights;
- disseminating and implementing the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy as a blueprint for safeguarding and strengthening democratic security and resilience on our continent;
- counteracting democratic backsliding and anchoring democratic culture in societies; protecting media freedom;
- fighting all forms of discrimination, fostering gender equality and protecting the human and social rights of all groups in society;
- participating in the Council of Europe's review and further work on emerging human rights challenges, such as the environmental crisis and the exponential growth in the use of artificial intelligence throughout our societies;
- engaging with youth, civil society and human rights defenders;
- contributing to rules-based multilateralism and strengthening inter-parliamentary dialogue, with national parliaments and international assemblies;
- strengthening dialogue with Belarusian democratic forces and civil society; identifying channels for establishing dialogue with Russian democratic forces and civil society who share Council of Europe values.

3. Structures and working methods

6. The contribution of the Parliamentary Assembly to the Reykjavik follow-up will be channelled through its different structures and working methods, including:

- The work of its thematic Committees, leading to reports, resolutions and recommendations on the main priority topics identified at the Summit (thematic approach); further strengthening of cross-committee collaboration in order to pool efforts and expertise on multi-faceted Reykjavik priorities;
- The work of General Rapporteurs and thematic sub-committees, focusing on specific issues of particular importance;
- Its country-by-country monitoring reports;
- Co-operation with the Committee of Ministers, notably through the Joint Committee, and with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (dialogue mechanism, regular exchanges with the Bureau and the Assembly);
- Active participation in, and co-ordination with, work underway in the intergovernmental sector, particularly in the field of setting of new standards and monitoring;

- Strengthened participation in the Organisation's co-operation activities, adding an interparliamentary input into Action Plans, and interparliamentary co-operation activities including through its thematic networks, and through peer exchanges;
- Links with the Court and Execution of Judgments process, focusing on the parliamentary dimension of the implementation of judgments (regular thematic reports) and by fulfilling its statutory role in the Election of Judges;
- Co-operation and co-ordination with the activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights (both thematic and country by country reports);
- Work of PACE members at the national level to ensure adherence to and implementation of Council of Europe standards and increased visibility
- Regular exchanges with civil society, youth, Human Rights defenders and other outside partners.

7. The sections on the Parliamentary Assembly in the draft Programme and Budget 2024-27 will reflect its objectives in contributing actively to the Reykjavik priorities and follow-up in line with the [Assembly's Opinion](#) on the budget and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027 (Rapporteur: Ms Ingjerd SCHOU, Norway, EPP/CD), adopted on 21 June 2023. Its expenditure needs for 2024-2025 have been reviewed and tailored in order to request resources which will allow it to respond to these readjusted political priorities.

The present document contains further details and examples of the re-prioritisation of its activities in the light of the main directions indicated in the Reykjavik Declaration; it may be further developed following the current discussions on this matter in each committee.

8. As part of its work to ensure the good implementation of the Reykjavik Declaration, the Assembly will continue to review its own functioning and working methods. It will further develop cross-committee working and a task-oriented approach to resource allocation in order to maximise efficiency and optimise impact. It will continue to support and participate in the reform processes underway in the Council of Europe as a whole, especially as regards good governance and staff and budgetary management.

The Bureau of the Assembly will have a special responsibility to promote the coordination and synergy of the work of the Assembly's committees' and other structures; to streamline the Assembly's work programme and to regularly take stock of the implementation of the Summit outcomes by the Assembly

Appendix IV – Informal action plan – Parliamentary Assembly follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe (16-17 May 2023)



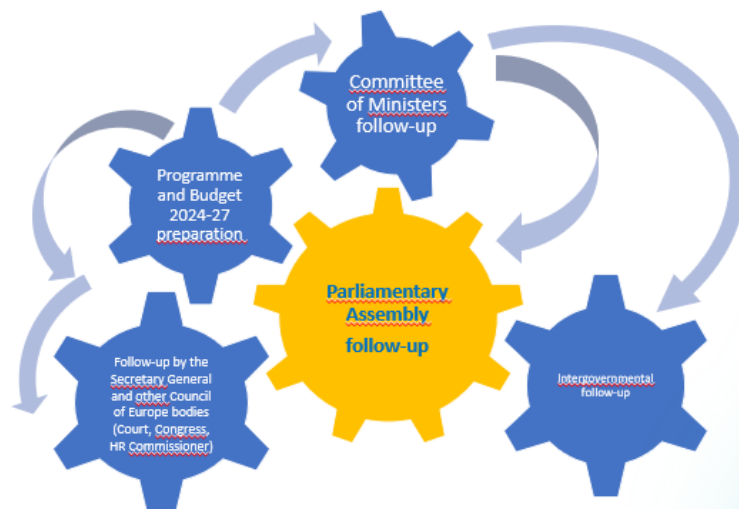


Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The road from Reykjavik: Organisation of work in the Council of Europe

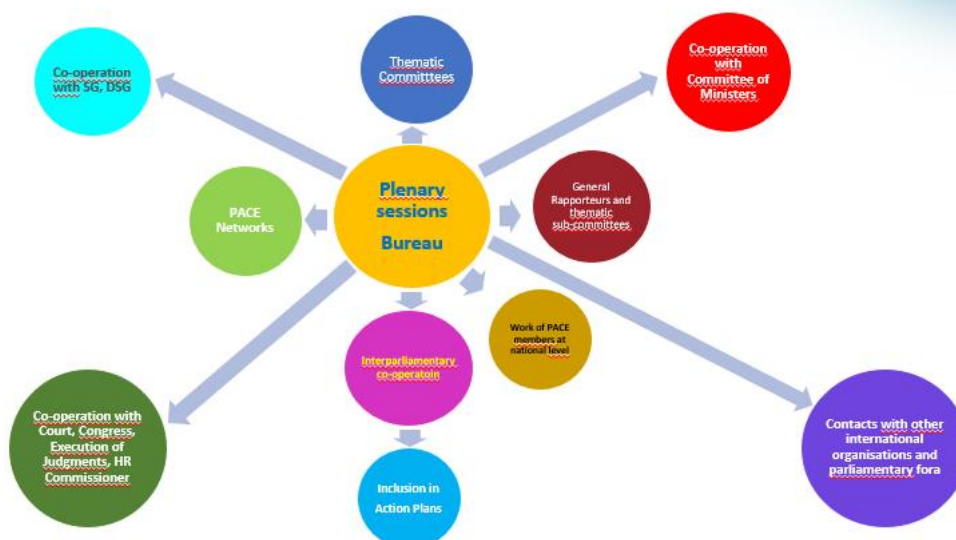


Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parliamentary Assembly follow-up: Building on existing structures and mechanisms



PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes: United for Ukraine and Accountability

Support for Ukraine

- Continued reporting on political, legal and HR aspects of the war of aggression (AS/POL; AS/JUR)
- Focus on accountability, war crimes and reparation aspects, including by providing its political support to the establishment of a special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression (AS/JUR; AS/POL; transversal)
- Follow-up to Ukraine ratification of Istanbul Convention (AS/EGA); work on sexual violence in conflict situations (AS/EGA)

Support for children of Ukraine

- Follow-up work to report on deportations and forcible transfers (AS/MIG; AS/SOC)

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes: United for Ukraine and Accountability / 2

Support for reconstruction of Ukraine

- Report AS/POL; transversal aspects across committees
- Support for reconstruction efforts (AS/POL / transversal committee work)

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United around our values / 1

Recommitting to the Convention System as the cornerstone of the CoE's protection of human rights

- Uphold the authority of the Court and Convention system, including by ensuring excellence in Judges through the election process (AS/CdH)
- Support the execution of judgments (AS/JUR; AS/MON; co-operation activities)
- Influence of PACE members at national level

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United around our values / 2

Reykjavik Principles for Democracy

- General follow-up measures (AS/POL; Sub-committee on democracy)
- Counteract backsliding (AS/POL; transversal across committees) and ensure early warning
- Work on foreign interference (AS/POL)
- Country-specific focus (AS/MON)
- Strengthen election observation capacity (EOM)
- Requests for opinion to Venice Commission (AS/POL; AS/MON)
- Develop framework for election observation in emergency situations (AS/POL)

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United around our values / 3

Human Rights Defenders

- Rapporteur on the situation of HRD (AS/JUR)
- Report on the situation of Belarusians in exile (AS/MIG)
- PACE engagement with Russian and Belarusian democratic opposition and civil society (AS/POL; transversal)

Death Penalty and Prohibition of torture

- General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty (AS/JUR)

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United around our values / 4

Social Rights

- Participation in reflection and high-level conference on the Social Charter (AS/SOC)

Rights of the child; Education

- Protecting the rights of the child in sport (AS/CULT)
- PACE action plan on children's rights (AS/SOC)
- On-line education and special education needs of children with disabilities (AS/CULT)

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United to meet current and future challenges/ 1

The Council of Europe and the Environment

- Participation in review and re-focusing of CoE activities and instruments to protect the environment (AS/SOC; Network)
- Support to work on new Convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law (AS/JUR; AS/SOC)

Standards in the digital era/A.I.

- Support work on Framework Convention on A.I. (AS/JUR)
- Report on the digital divide (AS/EGA)
- Impact of A.I. on the world of work (AS/SOC)
- Report on the metaverse (AS/CULT)

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United to meet current and future challenges/ 2

Protection of Journalists

- General Rapporteur on Media Freedom (AS/CULT)
- Co-operation with Platform for the safety of Journalists (AS/CULT)
- Participation in the CoE campaign for the safety of Journalists (AS/CULT)
- Report on SLAPPS (AS/CULT)

Inclusive Societies / Discrimination

- Intersectional work on discrimination (AS/EGA)
- General Rapporteur on LGBTI rights (AS/EGA)
- Parliamentary Platform on the rights of LGBTi people in Europe (AS/EGA)
- No hate parliamentary Alliance (AS/EGA)
- Charter against Racism (AS/EGA)

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United to meet current and future challenges/ 3

Gender equality and full participation of women in decision-making processes

- Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence (AS/EGA)
- Interparliamentary activities to promote the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (AS/EGA; Co-operation Division – IPCPPSD)
- General Rapporteur on Violence against Women; Report on the role of men and boys in combating violence against women (AS/EGA)
- Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United to meet current and future challenges/ 4

Youth participation; Civil Society; HR Defenders

- Youth Partnership with PACE (AS/POL)
- Engagement with children and young people and civil society actors (transversal across committees)

Migration

- Work on the fight against smuggling of migrants and the protection of victims (AS/MIG)
- Integration of migrants (AS/MIG and transversal across committees)

PACE work on Reykjavik outcomes:

United in our vision for the Council of Europe

External Dimension

- Relations with non-member States (AS/POL)
- Co-operation with Southern neighbourhood (Co-operation Division - IPCPPSC; transversal)
- Outreach to other parliamentary assemblies (President)

Relations with other international organisations

- Following EU accession process to the ECHR (AS/JUR)
- Co-operation in the EU enlargement process (AS/MON)
- Strengthening rules-based multilateralism (AS/POL)
- Exchanges and co-operation with UN, OECD, development banks, IPU etc. (transversal)
- Integration of migrants (AS/MIG and transversal across committees)

Organisation and follow-up of work

Preparation of detailed PACE road map for Reykjavik follow-up

Prioritisation of work according to Reykjavik outcomes

Strengthening of cross-committee collaboration and task-oriented use of resources

Regular stock-taking of progress by each committee to be discussed in the Bureau (regular item on Bureau agenda)

Informal meeting of the President with Committee Chairs during every part-session (Tuesday morning meeting)

Regular information to CM on PACE follow-up to Reykjavik (President and SG PACE)