

## Information documents

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### **Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1477<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies\* (4 October 2023)**

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\* This document covers activities of the Assembly since 23 June 2023 up to the meeting of the Bureau of 9 October 2023.

## I. Main developments between the Assembly's June part-session and the October part-session

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

During the reporting period, the Assembly continued to follow closely the situation on the ground in Ukraine, especially through its Committees and rapporteurs, and by reaffirming and mobilising, at the highest level, its political support as needed. Three key activities occurred between the two part-sessions. On 10 September 2023, the President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Krišjānis Kariņš, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Tiny Kox, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić made a [joint statement](#) condemning the illegitimate elections held in parts of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia. The Council of Europe leaders strongly condemned the illegitimate sham "elections" and underlined that, held in flagrant violation of international law, they constituted a further illustration of the denial by the Russian Federation of the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law upheld by the Council of Europe. They declared that the Russian authorities' decision to organise them was only the latest in a series of illegal and harmful decisions they have taken since the Russian Federation was expelled from the Organisation as a result of its war of aggression against Ukraine. They finally reaffirmed their unwavering support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its international recognised borders.

On 11 September 2023, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Tiny Kox, addressed the [Council of Europe Ministers of Justice conference](#) 'On the Path to Justice for Ukraine' in Riga. In his intervention, the PACE President emphasised the urgent need for justice and accountability in Ukraine, underlying that the creation of the international register of damage was only the first step in the process of accountability for violations of international law arising from the Russian Federation's war of aggression. He then reminded participants that the Assembly proposed the establishment of an international compensation commission to review and adjudicate the claims submitted and documented by the register, and that compensation awards would then be paid to successful claimants from a future compensation fund. In his closing remarks, President Kox affirmed that justice and accountability would be delivered by standing united with Ukraine. The day after, Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Chairperson of the Latvian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, participated in the second meeting of the Conference of Participants of the Register of damage for Ukraine, held in Riga. In her intervention, she stressed that the Assembly was the first international Organisation calling to ensure Russian Federation's accountability for its illegal actions committed against Ukraine and welcomed that the practical implementation of this proposal had begun. On 27 June 2023, President Kox addressed the opening of the [first meeting](#) of the Conference of Participants of the Register of damage for Ukraine.

The consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine were also at the heart of the [European Conference of Presidents of Parliament](#), held in Dublin on 28-29 September 2023. One of the three main themes chosen covered the *Consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and role of national parliaments in Ukraine's reconstruction*. The discussion was introduced by keynote addresses by Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk (Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine); Sir Lindsay Hoyle (House of Commons, United Kingdom); and Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Saeima, Latvia). In adopting the conclusions of the Conference, Speakers of Parliament affirmed their deepest respect for the resilience of the Verkhovna Rada, which continued its functioning despite the war of aggression and expressed their full solidarity with the Ukrainian people and unwavering commitment to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes, echoing the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe at the Fourth Summit. They underlined that national parliaments, as guardians of democracy and the international law-based order, can play a major contribution in setting the course of Europe's destiny, in particular by avoiding any weakening of resolve. Parliaments must act, through parliamentary diplomacy and inter-parliamentary dialogue, to rally allies in support of Ukraine, and to promote a revival of the multilateral system of global governance, firmly rooted in the rule of law and greater equality. They added that a strong response to the war of aggression also meant justice for the victims and accountability for the military and political leadership of the Russian Federation and the perpetrators of war crimes and human rights violations. In this context, Speakers of Parliament commended the Council of Europe for its role in setting up the Register of Damage and affirmed their political support for the establishment of a compensation mechanism and the creation of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression. Above all, they reconfirmed the commitment to and belief in a just and lasting peace for Ukraine, on the basis of President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula, as a precondition for prosperity, peace and democratic security in Europe.

## B. Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit

On 4 July, Ms Ingjerd Schou (Norway, EPP/CD), Assembly General Rapporteur on budget and the intergovernmental programme, participated in the meeting of the GR-PBA. On this occasion, she introduced the [Assembly's Opinion on Budget and priorities of the Council of Europe](#) for the next quadrennial period, as well as the Assembly's own anticipated expenditure needs for the period 2024-2025. She stated that the Assembly believes that the Reykjavik Declaration and the priorities therein should be at the centre of the Council of Europe Programme and Budget during the next 4 years. As the Assembly's general rapporteur, she welcomed the fact that the budget framework is firmly structured around the priorities and outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit. This approach fully corresponds to the Assembly's vision.

On 14 September, the Bureau of the Assembly, as part of the overall effort to contribute to the implementation of the decisions taken in Reykjavik by the Heads of State and Government, held an exchange of views on the follow-up to the Summit. In particular, members of the Bureau were informed that the design of a new roadmap keeping track of the work already done and under preparation by the committees was underway. A dedicated webpage on the Assembly website, with an interactive timeline displaying Assembly's milestones in this context, was also in the process of being finalised. During the forthcoming part-session, the Bureau will continue to discuss the implementation of the Summit decisions, while the President of the Assembly will closely coordinate with Chairpersons of committees.

Ahead of the International Day on Democracy (15 September), the Assembly's Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy adopted a [statement](#) underlying that Democracy is a universal value, the cornerstone of free and prosperous societies and a precondition for peace. In this context, members of the Committee recognised that the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine was a stark reminder of the need for the Council of Europe and its member States to redouble their efforts to defend democracy, which crucially contributed to international peace and security. Members of the Committee recognised that the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy, committed to by Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe at the Reykjavik Summit in May 2023, showed clear support at the highest political level for securing and strengthening democracy and good democratic governance in Europe. Parliaments should have a leading role in contributing to this endeavour. As part of these efforts, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy commended and supported the following initiatives: - establishing a United Nations Special Rapporteur on Democracy to protect and strengthen democracy at a global level; -developing a Council of Europe "Democracy Checklist" as a tool for evaluation, accountability, and strengthening democratic practices and institutions; and - exploring innovative participatory models, which would enrich representative democracy by bringing in the direct contribution of youth and civil society.

## II. Meeting of the Bureau (14 September 2023)

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Thursday 14 September 2023, in Paris:

- **Communications:**

- took note of the communication by the President of the Assembly and of his intention to request the Venice Commission's Opinion on the judicial reform in Israel;
- took note of the communication of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- **Fourth part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 9-13 October):**

- drew up the draft agenda (Appendix 1);
- took note of the requests to hold debates under urgent procedure on:
  - *Humanitarian Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh*, tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
  - *Call for the immediate release of Osman Kavala*, tabled by the leaders of the five political groups;
- with regards to the election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights, decided that it would be conducted in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 40.11, using ballot papers and ballot boxes, and to continue the practice of having tellers appointed by political groups;

- **Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit:** heard a presentation by the Director of Human Dignity and Sustainable Development and took note that a detailed roadmap on the follow-up to the Summit had been designed to coordinate the work of the committees, alongside with an interactive timeline to be published on the Assembly website;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 2, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Elections observation:**
  - Montenegro: early parliamentary elections (11 June 2023): approved the report by the observation mission;
  - Poland: parliamentary elections (15 October 2023): approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee (Appendix 3);
- **Election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (June 2024):** confirmed 25-26 June 2024 as the date of the election and approved the Assembly's election calendar (Appendix 4);
- **Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (January 2024):** took note of the calendar for the election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and decided to ask the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to organise the interviews of the candidates in time for the Assembly's first part-session of 2024, preferably in December 2023;
- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Dublin, 28-29 September 2023):** took note of the programme and of the information provided by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2024:** approved the proposals contained in the document (Appendix 5);
- **2023 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the shortlist made by the Selection Panel at its meeting in Prague on 5 September 2023, consisting of (in alphabetical order):
  - Osman Kavala (Türkiye)
  - Justyna Wydrzynska (Poland)
  - Yevgeniy Zakharov (Ukraine);
- **Issues raised by committees:**
  - Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: authorised Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kosovo\* in 2023 in her capacity as rapporteur on the *Statutory Opinion on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30*;
  - **Conference “Money and Democracy – an Uneasy Relationship” (Cologne, 7-8 December 2023):** decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the conference;
  - **Resolution 1376 (2004) relating to Cyprus:** took note of the letter from the UBP Turkish Cypriot political party informing the President of the Assembly of the name of one of the "elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community" entitled to sit in the Assembly in 2023, namely Mr Oğuzhan Hasipoğlu, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
  - **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised
    - The ad hoc Sub-Committee to carry out a fact-finding visit to Calais (France) of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, to meet in Calais, France, on 25-26 October 2023;
    - The sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the ECHR of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, to meet in Zagreb on 13-14 November 2023;

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\* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- **Other business:** heard a statement by Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, EC/DA) about a motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko and other members of the Assembly on *The role of sanctions as a protective measure for human rights and democracy* ([Doc. 15812](#)).

### III. European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Dublin, 28-29 September 2023)

43 Presidents and 19 Vice-Presidents of Parliament of Council of Europe member States and of partner, observer and neighbouring parliaments, as well as the Presidents of several interparliamentary assemblies, met in Dublin on 28 and 29 September 2023 for the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Appendix 6).

The Speakers of both Houses of the Oireachtas, the Irish Parliament, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe delivered welcoming addresses.

Participants debated on three themes, each introduced by the key-note speeches of three national Speakers:

**Theme 1: Consequences of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and role of national Parliaments in Ukraine’s reconstruction**, with introductory speeches by Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk (Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine); Sir Lindsay Hoyle (House of Commons, United Kingdom); and Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Saeima, Latvia).

**Theme 2: The challenges to representative democracy in volatile times**, with introductory speeches by Ms Yaël Braun-Pivet (National Assembly, France); Mr Augusto Ernesto Santos Silva (Assembleia da República, Portugal); and Mr Lauri Hussar (Riigikogu, Estonia).

**Theme 3: Equality and diversity in public representation – the participation of young people, women and ethnic and social groups as members of parliament**, with introductory speeches by Ms Urška Klakočar Zupančič (Državni Zbor, Slovenia); Mr Birgir Ármannsson (Alþingi, Iceland); and Ms Eliane Tillieux, (House of Representatives, Belgium).

The Secretaries General of the participating parliaments and parliamentary assemblies also met on this occasion and discussed, inter alia, **standards in public life and the integrity framework for parliaments**.

On the sidelines of the Conference, the women Presidents of Parliament exchanged during a working breakfast on the topic of **women’s empowerment**. All the participants were also able to take part in a [pre-conference event](#) organised on “**Hate speech and threats of violence against elected representatives**”.

The program, the conclusions of the Conference, as well as the list of participants are available on the [Conference page](#) on the Assembly’s website.

### IV. Prizes

#### ➤ **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**

Meeting in Prague, on 5 September, the selection panel of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, which rewards outstanding civil society action in defence of human rights in Europe and beyond, announced the shortlist for the 2023 Award. In alphabetical order:

Osman Kavala, Türkiye  
Justyna Wydrzynska, Poland  
Yevgeniy Zakharov, Ukraine

The overall winner of the 2023 Prize is due to be announced at the opening of PACE’s Autumn plenary session in Strasbourg on 9 October.

#### ➤ **Europe Prize**

The Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) held a meeting in meeting in Bolesławiec (Poland) on 18 August 2023 on the occasion of the presentation ceremony of the Europe Prize 2023 to the city of Bolesławiec.

➤ **Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment**

On 15 September 2023, meeting in Paris, the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination held an exchange of views on its responsibility to propose three independent members to compose the Selection Panel of the Prize, to be transmitted to the Bureau of the Assembly during the October part-session 2023.

**V. Activities of committees and networks, and election observation missions**

➤ On 8 September 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:**

. held a hearing on the *Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 12th report* in the context of a report prepared by Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), with the participation of Professor Philip Leach, Professor of Human Rights Law, School of Law, Middlesex University, United Kingdom, and Mr Gerald Knaus, Chairperson of the European Stability Initiative (ESI), Berlin, Germany;

. held a hearing on *Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine* (focusing on the “Wagner group”), in the context of a report prepared by Mr Davor Ivo Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD), with the participation of Ms Jelena Aparac, Head of Policy, Advocacy and Research, Legal Action Worldwide (LAW), former Chairperson of United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries, Geneva, Switzerland, Ms Lou Osborn, “All eyes on Wagner”, France, and Ms Nathalia Dukhan, Senior investigator focusing on war crimes and transnational criminal organisations, The Sentry, Washington.

➤ On 11 and 12 September 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:**

. held 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 Mr Ulrik Knudsen, Deputy Secretary General of the OECD;

. held 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 Mr Rodrigo Ballester, Head of the Centre for European Studies at Mathias Corvinus Collegium (MCC), Budapest;

. held a hearing on *Call for a national political reform process in Belarus*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC), with the participation of Mr Valery Tsepka, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1994-1997), Ambassador of Belarus to the United States (1997-2002), Director of the Belarusian High-Tech Park (2005-2017), Candidate for the Presidency of Belarus (2020);

. held a hearing on *Destabilisation in the Sahel region and its consequences for Europe* with the participation of Mr Thierry Vircoulon, Associate researcher, coordinator of the Central and Southern Africa Observatory, Sub-Saharan Africa Center, Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI).

➤ On 13 September 2023 in Paris, the **Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee):**

. held an exchange of views on *Human rights and humanitarian concerns as a result of the situation in the Lachin corridor*, with the participation of Mr Toivo Klaar, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus.

➤ On 14 September 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:**

. held 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);

. held 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 Mr Hugo Gabbero, Director of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Paris, Ms Sarah Durocher, President, *Planning familial*, France, and Ms Noémie Gardais, International advocacy Officer, *Planning familial*, France.

➤ On 15 September 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:**

. held a joint hearing with the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, on *Gender-based violence – the question of consent*, with the participation of Ms Catherine Le Magueresse, Associate Researcher, Institute of Legal and Philosophical Sciences of the Sorbonne (ISJPS - Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne), Ms Sabrina Wittmann, Lawyer, Violence against Women Department, GREVIO, Council of Europe Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII), Ms Manon Garcia, Professor of Practical Philosophy at the Freie Universität, Berlin, and Ms Yvonne Woods, Campaigns and Communications Manager, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre;

. held an exchange of views on *Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting* in the context of the preparation of a report by Ms Rapporteur: Ms Sena Nur Çelik, Türkiye, NR, with the participation of Ms Valerie Frey, Senior Economist, Social Policy Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

➤ On 18 September 2023, in Paris, **the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment:**

. held an exchange of views on *What protection for environmental rights in Europe after the Reykjavik Summit?* with representatives of Human Rights Watch and the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL);

➤ On 18 September 2023, in Paris, the **Network and the Sub-Committee on Children (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development):**

. held exchanges of views on *25+ ‘ready-to-vote’ legislative proposals” by the Solar Impulse Foundation and on “Accompanying the transformation of the society with reinforced environmental human rights*, with the participation of children (eco-delegates of the “Institution Jeanne d’Arc” of Colombes, France), Mr Bertrand Piccard, the President of the Solar Impulse Foundation (Switzerland) and Ms Corinne Le Quéré, President of the High Council on Climate (France) and member of the Climate Change Committee (United Kingdom).

➤ On 18 September 2023, in Paris, the **Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development):**

. held an exchange of views on *proposals to improve the visibility of the Europe Prize*.

➤ On 18 September 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:**

. held a hearing on *Abusive practices on depriving children from their family environment* with the participation of Mr Mads Andenas, former United Nations Special Rapporteur and Professor of Law at the University of Oslo (Norway), and Ms Mia Dambach, Executive Director, Child Identity Protection (Geneva, Switzerland).

➤ On 21 September 2023, in Reykjavik, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:**

. held an exchange of views on *Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Stephanie Krisper (Austria, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Claudia Ashanie Wilson, Attorney, Claudia & Partners Legal Services, Iceland, and Ms Catherine Woollard, Director of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), a network of NGOs with its headquarter in Belgium;

. held an exchange of views on *The use of explosive weapons as a major driver of justified displacement*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Domagoj Hajduković (Croatia, SOC), with the participation of Ms Rachel Bolton-King, Associate Professor and Courses Manager of Forensic Science, Nottingham Trent University, Editor In Chief of Science & Justice journal for the Chartered Society of Forensic Science, United Kingdom, and Mr Christian De Cock, Visiting Professor of Law, Free University of Brussels and University of Ghent, Retired colonel, Former senior legal advisor of the EU's military-strategic headquarter in Brussels (MPCC), Belgium.

➤ On 22 September 2023, in Reykjavik, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:**

. held a round table discussion on *From Reykjavík onwards: a new social contract for the integration of refugees and migrants* with the participation of Ms Joanna Marcinkowska, Project manager, Human Rights and

Democracy Office (Interculturalism & Inclusion Unit), Municipality of Reykjavík, a coordinator of the Intercultural cities Programme (ICC) of the Council of Europe for the City of Reykjavík, Mr Birgir Thórarinsson, PACE member, member of the Althingi - Parliament of Iceland, Mr Hussain Merzaye, refugee and member of the Afghan community in Iceland, Student, Ms Nína Helgadóttir, Head of Refugee Unit at the Icelandic Red Cross and Ms Mina Sharifi, Afghan refugee, Holder of the European Qualification Passport for Refugees (EQPR), Student at the Faculty of Computer Science of University of Turin, Italy. The round table was moderated by Ms Louise Barton, Director of Committees, Human Dignity and Sustainable Development Directorate, PACE.

➤ A **pre-electoral mission** composed of one member of each of the Assembly's political groups met in Warsaw on 26 and 27 September to assess the political climate and state of preparations for the forthcoming parliamentary elections to be held on 15 October (press statement available [here](#)).

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

➤ ***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*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Romania on **4-6 September 2023**.

➤ ***Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria***

**Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir** (Iceland, SOC) and **Ms Deborah Bergamini** (Italy, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Bulgaria on **18-19 September 2023**.

➤ ***The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation***

**Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir** (Iceland, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Lithuania on **20-21 September 2023**

➤ On **24-27 September 2023**, Mr Thomas Markert and Ms Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, the two eminent lawyers appointed by the Bureau in the context of the preparation of the Assembly's Opinion to the Committee of Ministers on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, carried out a fact-finding visit to Kosovo\* to assess the conformity of its legal system with Council of Europe standards.

➤ ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania***

**Mr Asim Mollazada** (Azerbaijan, EC/DA) and **Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe** (Romania, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Albania on **25-28 September 2023**.

➤ ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina***

**Mr Zsolt Németh** (Hungary, EC/DA) and **Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski** (North Macedonia, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina on **27-29 September 2023**.

➤ ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia***

**Mr Axel Schäfer** (Germany, SOC), co-rapporteur of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Serbia on **2-4 October 2023**.

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\* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



## **VII. Online meetings in the framework of the preparation of reports**

### **➤ Cultural heritage and climate change**

**Mr Andries Gryffroy** (Belgium, NR), rapporteur of the Committee on *Culture, Science, Education and Media* held online meetings: on **23 June 2023** with the “Comité Champagne” and on **26 June 2023** with Dr Johanna Leissner, Chair of the EU OMC group “Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change” to gather relevant information for case studies to be included in the report.

➤ On **18 September 2023**, Mr Thomas Markert and Ms Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, the **two eminent lawyers appointed by the Bureau** in the context of the preparation of the Assembly’s Opinion to the Committee of Ministers on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, held online meetings with various key interlocutors in the framework of the preparation of their report to be submitted to the Bureau of the Assembly.

### **➤ Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace**

**Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk** (Ukraine, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, held three online meetings with heritage experts concerning lessons to be learnt from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, and Ukraine, on **25-27 September 2023**.

## **VIII. Seminars and conferences organised by the Assembly**

➤ **July 12, 2023, Rabat:** the Assembly’s Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division organised a meeting of the *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*”.

➤ **September 28, 2023, Dublin:** the Assembly’s Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division organised a pre-conference event on hate speech and threats of violence against elected representatives at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament. The event aimed to look at the underlying causes of hate speech and threats of violence against elected representatives, its consequences and potential strategies to prevent and address them, ensure the safeguard of democratic processes and protect the individuals who uphold them.

➤ **October 3, 2023, Rabat:** the Assembly’s Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division organised a workshop on *Violence against Women* 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*”.

## **IX. Cooperation 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, took part in an exchange of views with the Rapporteur Group of the Committee of Ministers on Programme, Budget and Administration (GR-PBA) in Strasbourg.

➤ On **14 September 2023**, **Mr Andi-Lucian Cristea** (Romania, SOC), rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on *Risks and opportunities of the Metaverse*, participated in the Committee of Ministers’ informal exchange of views on “Impact of immersive realities on human rights, rule of law, and democracy” in Strasbourg.

## **X. Cooperation with the Venice Commission**

➤ On 13 September 2023, the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) agreed to request from the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) an opinion on the amendments to the Law on national minorities (communities) of Ukraine.

- On 21 September 2023, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly requested request from the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) an opinion on the judicial reform in Israel.
- The Assembly proposed the candidature of Mr Michael Georg Link (Germany, ALDE) for the position of Vice-President of the Council for Democratic Elections, to be elected at its 78th meeting in Venice on 5 October.
- On 5 October 2023 in Venice, Mr Davor Ivo Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD) attended the 78<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Venice Commission's Council for Democratic Elections.
- On 6-7 October 2023, in Venice, Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, (Cyprus, SOC) will attend the 136th Plenary session of the Venice Commission.

## **XI. External relations**

### **- Relations with other international partners**

- On 14 July 2023, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development** held a side event on "Decent work: building a sustainable future" during the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (USA).

## **XII. List of meetings of the committees, the Bureau and the Presidential Committee**

- . **18-19 August 2023:** *Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize ((of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) - 2023 Europe Prize presentation ceremony to Bolesławiec (Poland)*
- . **8 September 2023:** *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Paris*
- . **11-12 September 2023:** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Paris*
- . **13 September 2023:** *Monitoring Committee, Paris*
- . **13 September 2023:** *Presidential Committee, Paris*
- . **14 September 2023:** *Bureau of the Assembly, Paris*
- . **14 and 15 September 2023:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Paris*
- . **18 September 2023:** *Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment and the Joint meeting of the Network and the Sub-Committee on Children (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) , Paris*
- . **18 September 2023:** *Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize ((of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) , Paris*
- . **19 September 2023:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Paris*
- . **21-22 September 2023:** *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Reykjavik*
- . **25 September 2023:** *Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights, Paris*

**Doc. 15822 prov1**  
02 October 2023

## **Fourth part of the 2023 Ordinary Session (9-13 October 2023)**

### **Draft agenda<sup>1</sup>**

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

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1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 14 September 2023. Updated, on 2 October 2023, under the authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly, following consultation in the Presidential Committee, to reflect modifications to be proposed to the Bureau of the Assembly.



## Abbreviations

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Bur: Bureau of the Assembly

Per: Standing Committee

Pol: Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Jur: Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Soc: Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Mig: Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Cult: Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

Ega: Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Mon: Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Pro: Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

Cdh: Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group

EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party

ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe





EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance

UEL: Group of the Unified European Left

NR: Members not belonging to a political group

## Symbols

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-  Presentation, statement
-  Deadline for tabling documents
-  Lists (speakers, questions)
-  Votes

## Meetings outside the Chamber

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### Joint Committee

Tuesday: 14:00-15:00

### Bureau of the Assembly

Monday: 08:00-09:30

Friday: 08:00-09:30

### Committees

Monday: 13:00-14:00

Tuesday: 08:30-10:30

Tuesday: 10:30-12:30

Wednesday: 10:30-12:30

Thursday: 08:30-10:30

Thursday: 10:30-12:30

### Political groups

Monday: 09:30-12:00

Monday: 18:00-19:30

Wednesday: 08:30-10:30

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# Monday 9 October 2023

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## **Sitting No. 20** (14:30-17:30)

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### **1. Opening of the part-session**

- 1.1. **Statement by the President**
- 1.2. **Examination of credentials**
- 1.3. **Election of a Vice-President of the Assembly in respect of Türkiye**
- 1.4. **Changes in the membership of committees**
- 1.5. **Request(s) for current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure**
  - 1.5.1. Urgent procedure debate: "Humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh"
  - 1.5.2. Urgent procedure debate: "Call for the immediate release of Osman Kavala"
  - 1.5.3. Current affairs debate: "Migrants' deaths at sea"
  - 1.5.4. Urgent procedure debate: "Ensuring a just peace in Ukraine and lasting security in Europe"
- 1.6. **Adoption of the agenda**

### **2. Prize Award Ceremony** (15:00-15:30)

- 2.1. **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**

### **3. Debate**

- 3.1. **Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee**
  - Presentation by:
    - o Mr Aleksander POCIEJ (Poland, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)
- 3.2. **Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Montenegro (11 June 2023)**
  - Presentation by:
    - o Mr Reinhold LOPATKA (Austria, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. 15820)
  - List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 9 October, 12:00)

### **4. [Possibly] Current affairs debate**

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## Tuesday 10 October 2023

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### Sitting No. 21 (15:30-20:00)

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#### 5. [Possibly] Elections (15:30-18:00)

#### 6. Question time (15:30-16:00)

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

📅 Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 9 October, 16:30)

#### 7. Debate

##### 7.1. The challenge of far-right ideology to democracy and human rights in Europe

☐ Presentation by:

- Mr Samad SEYIDOV (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15826)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 9 October, 16:30)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 6 October, 15:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15826)

#### 8. Debate

##### 8.1. The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by France

☐ Presentation by:

- Ms Yelyzaveta YASKO (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 15833)
- Ms Fiona O'LOUGHLIN (Ireland, ALDE), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 15833)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 9 October, 16:30)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 6 October, 15:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15833)

### Sitting No. 22 (14:30-20:00)

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#### 9. [Possibly] Elections (2nd round) (14:30-18:00)

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

##### 10.1. Communication from the Committee of Ministers

Presentation by:

- o Mr Krišjānis KARIŅŠ, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia and President of the Committee of Ministers

Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 10 October, 19:00)

Written questions (deadline for tabling: Monday 2 October, 14:30)

#### 11. Debate

##### 11.1. Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance

Presentation by:

- o Mr Pieter OMTZIGT (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15825)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 10 October, 19:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 9 October, 14:30)

Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15825)

#### 12. Debate

##### 12.1. Preventing and combating violence against women with disabilities

Presentation by:

- o Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO (Monaco, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 15828)

Statement by:

- o Lord Ahmad of WIMBLEDON, Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and United Nations at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom, and Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 10 October, 19:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 9 October, 14:30)

Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15828)

#### 13. Debate

##### 13.1. Examining the legitimacy and legality of the ad hominem term-limit waiver for the incumbent President of the Russian Federation

Presentation by:

- o Mr Pieter OMTZIGT (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15827)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 10 October, 19:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 9 October, 14:30)


Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15827)

**Sitting No. 23** (14:30-20:00)

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


**14.1. Mr Didier REYNDERS, European Commissioner for Justice**

 Questions (deadline for registration: Wednesday 11 October, 19:00)


**15. [Possibly] Debates under urgent procedure**


**16. Debate**


**16.1. The role of the Council of Europe in preventing conflicts, restoring credibility of international institutions and promoting global peace**

 Presentation by:

- o Ms Lesia VASYLENKO (Ukraine, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15821)
- o Mr Claude KERN (France, ALDE), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Mon (Doc. 15824)


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 11 October, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 10 October, 14:30)


 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15821)


**17. Debate**


**17.1. The theme of migration and asylum in the election campaign and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants**

 Presentation by:

- o Mr Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ (Switzerland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15832)
- o Mr Tural GANJALIYEV (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Pol (Doc. ...)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 11 October, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 10 October, 14:30)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15832)



### Sitting No. 24 (10:00-13:00)

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#### 18. Joint debate

##### 18.1. Preventing addictive behaviours in children

- Presentation by:
  - Ms Diana STOICA (Romania, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15830)

##### 18.2. Mental health and well-being of children and young adults

- Presentation by:
  - Mr Simon MOUTQUIN (Belgium, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15829)
- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 12 October, 19:00)
- ⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 11 October, 10:00)
- ⚖ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15830)
- ⚖ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15829)

#### 19. Debate

##### 19.1. The humanitarian crisis emerging for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees

- Presentation by:
  - Mr Birgir THÓRARINSSON (Iceland, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15831)
- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 12 October, 19:00)
- ⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 11 October, 10:00)
- ⚖ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15831)

#### 20. Progress report (continued)

#### 21. Closure of the part-session

## Appendix 2 – References and transmissions to committees

### A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Social mobilisation, social unrest, and police reaction in Council of Europe member States: need for a new social contract?**  
**Doc. 15803**  
**Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

*Proposal:* reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

2. **Sexual violence against men and boys**  
**Doc. 15805**  
**Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**

*Proposal:* reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

3. **Preventing and combating gender discrimination in health**  
**Doc. 15806**  
**Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**

*Proposal:* reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

4. **Shaping the Parliamentary Assembly's relations with the United Nations Human Rights Council**  
**Doc. 15807**  
**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr George Katrougalos and other members of the Assembly**

*Proposal:* reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

5. **Free movement of representatives to the Parliamentary Assembly and their substitutes to and from the place of meeting**  
**Doc. 15809**  
**Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs**

*Proposal:* reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

### B. REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF REFERENCES

1. **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by the Netherlands (periodic review)**  
**Monitoring Committee decision**  
**Reference 4569 of 19 March 2021 (extended on 14 October 2022) – validity : 19 September 2023**

In a letter dated 5 September 2023, the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) asks that the validity of this reference be extended until 19 March 2024.

*Proposal:* extension until 19 March 2024.

2. **Towards a transparency register within the Parliamentary Assembly**  
**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger and other members of the Assembly**  
**Doc. 15330**  
**Reference 4599 of 27 September 2021 – validity: 27 September 2023**

In a letter dated 8 September 2023, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights asks that the validity of this reference be extended until 30 June 2024.

*Proposal:* extension until 30 June 2024.

### **Appendix 3 – List of members of the ad hoc Committee for the observation of the Parliamentary elections in Poland (15 October 2023)**

**Chairperson / Présidente: Ms/ Mme Mireille CLAPOT**

#### **Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)**

Ms / Mme Aurora FLORIDIA, Italy / Italie  
Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse  
Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche\*  
Ms / Mme Camilla FABRICIUS, Denmark / Danemark  
Mr / M. Fabian FUNKE, Germany / Allemagne  
Mr / M. Givi MIKANADZE, Georgia / Géorgie  
Ms / Mme Blerina GJYLAMETI, Albania / Albanie  
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye  
Mr / M. Piero FASSINO, Italy / Italie  
Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France

#### **Substitutes / suppléant.e.s**

Mr / M. Pedro CEGONHO, Portugal  
Mr / M. Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine  
Mr / M. Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI, San Marino / Saint-Marin  
Mr / M. Tony LLOYD, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni  
Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU, Cyprus / Chypre  
Mr / M. Christian PETRY, Germany / Allemagne  
Ms / Mme Cécile HEMMEN, Luxembourg

#### **Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)**

Ms / Mme Marie-Christine DALLOZ, France  
Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche  
Ms / Mme Octavia MODERT, Luxembourg  
Ms / Mme Catia POLIDORI, Italy / Italie  
Mr / M. Chris SAID, Malta / Malte  
Mr / M. Andrius VYŠNIAUSKAS, Lithuania / Lituanie  
Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania / Roumanie\*  
Mr / M. Christian KLINGER, France

#### **Substitutes / suppléant.e.s**

#### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) / Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe (ADLE)**

Ms / Mme Mireille CLAPOT, France\*  
Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN, Switzerland / Suisse  
Mr / M. Christoph HOFFMANN, Germany / Allemagne  
Ms / Mme Denisa NEAGU, Romania / Roumanie  
ZZ..

#### **Substitutes / suppléant.e.s**

Ms / Mme Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA, Ukraine  
Mr / M. Robert TROY, Ireland / Irlande  
Ms / Mme Tamara VONTA, Slovenia / Slovénie  
Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie  
Ms / Mme Lesia ZABURANNA, Ukraine  
Ms / Mme Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie  
Mr / M. Georges-Louis BOUCHEZ, Belgium / Belgique

#### **European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance (EC-DA) / Groupe des Conservateurs européens et Alliance démocratique (CE-AD)**

Lord Simon RUSSELL, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni\*  
Mr / M. Thibaut FRANCOIS, France  
Mr / M. Norbert KLEINWÄCHTER, Germany / Allemagne

#### **Appendix 4 – Calendar for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

14 September 2023	confirmation of the date of the election and of the Assembly's election calendar by the Bureau of the Assembly, after informal discussions between the President of the Assembly and the Chair of the Committee of Ministers
Week of 22-26 January 2024	during the first part of the 2024 Ordinary Session (22-26 January 2024), consultation through the Joint Committee on all proposed candidates
Before June 2024	examination by the Bureau of the proposals of candidates submitted by the Committee of Ministers to the Assembly; interviews by the Bureau of the Assembly of candidates included in the recommendation (and possibly by political groups)
25/26 June 2024	during the third part of the 2024 Ordinary Session (24-28 June 2024), election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

## Appendix 5 – Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2024

Monday 22 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 26 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 7 March, 9.00 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 15 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 19 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 23 May, 3.00 pm, Vilnius	Bureau
Friday 24 May, 9.00 am, Vilnius	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 24 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 28 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 6 September, 9.00 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 30 September, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 4 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 28 November, 3.00 pm, Luxembourg	Bureau
Friday 29 November, 9.30 am, Luxembourg	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Friday 13 December, 9.00 am, Paris	Bureau

## Appendix 6 – European Conference of Presidents of Parliament



### Conférence européenne des **Présidentes et Présidents de Parlement** European Conference of **Presidents of Parliament**

Dublin, 28-29 septembre 2023 / 28-29 September 2023



21 September 2023

#### DRAFT PROGRAMME

#### Wednesday 27 September 2023

- 10.00-13.00 Pre-registration of participants  
Leinster House (Merrion Street entrance) D02 XR20
- 19.00-20.00 *Welcome reception offered by Mr Seán Ó Fearghail, T.D., Ceann Comhairle, Dáil Éireann and Senator Jerry Buttimer, Cathaoirleach, Seanad Éireann  
The State Apartments, Dublin Castle*

#### Thursday 28 September 2023

- 8.30-11.00 Registration of participants  
*Convention Centre Dublin (CCD)*
- 8.30-9.45 *Working breakfast of Women Presidents of Parliament hosted by Ms Catherine Connolly, T.D. Leas-Cheann Comhairle, Dáil Éireann  
Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) – Foyer, 5<sup>th</sup> floor*
- 8.30-9.30 *Meeting of secretaries of national delegations – Wicklow Hall 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*
- 10.00-10.45 *Pre-Conference Event - "Hate speech and the threats of violence against elected representatives."  
Wicklow Hall 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*
- 11.00-11.30 **Opening (plenary session)**  
*The Forum, ground floor*
- Mr Seán Ó FEARGHAÍL, T.D., Speaker of Dáil Éireann (House of Representatives), Houses of the Oireachtas
- Senator Jerry BUTTIMER, Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann (Senate), Houses of the Oireachtas
- Mr Tiny KOX, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- 11.30-13.00 **Theme 1: Consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and role of national Parliaments in Ukraine's reconstruction**  
*The Forum, ground floor*
- Key-note speakers:
- Mr Ruslan STEFANCHUK, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine
  - Sir Lindsay HOYLE, Speaker of the House of Commons, United Kingdom
  - Ms Daiga MIERIŅA, Speaker of the Saeima, Latvia (to be confirmed)
- Debate
- 13.05 *Family photo  
Lobby, ground floor*

13.15-15.00 *Lunch offered by the Houses of the Oireachtas Service  
Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) - The Liffey, 1<sup>st</sup> floor*

15.00-16.15 Continuation of the debate on theme 1  
*The Forum, ground floor*

16.15-16.30 *Coffee Break  
Foyer, Level 1 and Level 2*

16.30-19.00 **Theme 2: The challenges to representative democracy in volatile times**  
*The Forum, ground floor*

Key-note speakers:

- Ms Yaël BRAUN-PIVET, President of the National Assembly, France
- Mr Augusto Ernesto SANTOS SILVA, President of the Assembleia da República, Portugal
- Mr Lauri HUSSAR, President of the Riigikogu, Estonia

Debate

19.30 *Dinner reception offered by Mr Seán Ó Feargháil, T.D. Ceann Comhairle, Dáil Éireann  
and Senator Jerry Buttimer, Cathaoirleach, Seanad Éireann  
Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) – The Liffey, 1<sup>st</sup> floor*

#### Friday 29 September 2023

8.30-10.00 **Meeting of the Secretaries General**  
*Wicklow Hall 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

10.00-12.15 **Theme 3: Equality and diversity in public representation – the participation of young people, women and ethnic and social groups as members of parliament**  
*The Forum, ground floor*

Key-note speakers:

- Ms Urška KLAKOČAR ZUPANČIČ, President of the Državni Zbor, Slovenia
- Mr Birgir ÁRMANNSSON, Speaker of the Alþingi, Iceland
- Ms Eliane TILLIEUX, President of the House of Representatives, Belgium

Debate

12.15 **Concluding session**

13.15-15.00 *Lunch offered by Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly  
(Fallon & Byrne Restaurant, 11-17 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2)*

*Afternoon - Social Programme – Visits of Museums (see practical information)*

**October plenary session 2023 (9 – 13 October)**  
**Committee and Network hearings and other events open to the public**

**Monday 9 October 2023**

**Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**

**Sub-Committee on Diasporas and Integration**

**13:30 – 14:00**  
**Room 11**

**Exchange of views** on "Diasporas and access to media and means of social communication", with the participation of:

- **Mr. António Raúl Reis**, Head of Unit at the Publications Office of the EU, European Commission; CEO of Bom Dia Luxembourg – online information to the Portuguese speaking communities; President of Plataforma, Platform for Portuguese Media Organizations Abroad

**Tuesday 10 October 2023**

**Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**

**08:30 – 10:30**  
**Room 11**

**Exchange of views** on "Cultural heritage and climate" in the framework of a report prepared by **Mr. Andries Gryffroy** (Belgium, NR), with the online participation of:

- **Mr. Tero Mustonen**, Professor of human geography, Finland, and lead author of the 6th assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

**Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**  
**and**

**Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**  
**and**

**Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons,**

**10:30 – 12:30**  
**Room 9**

**Dialogue** with the representatives of the Russian democratic forces sharing the Council of Europe values, follow-up to Assembly [Resolutions 2433 \(2022\)](#) and [2473 \(2022\)](#)

- Statement by **Mr. Tiny Kox**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly
- Hearing with representatives of Russian democratic opposition forces, with the participation of:
- **Ms. Natalia Arno**
- **Mr. Sergei Guriev**
- **Ms. Evgenia Kara-Murza**
- **M. Mikhail Khodorkovsky**
- **Ms. Ekaterina Shulman**
- Media representative (name tbc)



<p><u>Women@PACE</u></p> <p>and</p> <p>Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment</p> <p>12:45 – 13:45 Room 11</p>	<p><b>Exchange of views</b> on "Breast cancer and the right to a healthy environment", with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof. Carole Mathelin, University Professor – Hospital Practitioner, Obstetrician-Gynaecologist, Head of the Surgery Department, ICANS (Cancer Institute of Strasbourg Europe), Vice-Chairperson of the <u>Senologic International Society</u>, in charge of Europe, Member of the National Academy of Surgery in charge of the feminisation of surgical professions, Head of the <u>Senology</u> Commission of the National College of French Gynaecologists and Obstetricians</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wednesday 11 October 2023</b></p>	
<p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p>10:30 – 12:30 Room 5</p>	<p><b>Dialogue</b> with representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces (further to the decision taken by the Committee at the January 2023 part-session) in the framework of the report "Call for a national political reform process in Belarus" by Rapporteur Mr Kimmo <u>Kiljunen</u>, (Finland, SOC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr <u>Vadzim Saranchukou</u>, Acting Chair, Belarusian Popular Front Party</li> <li>- Ms <u>Volha Alevnik</u>, International Secretary, Belarusian Christian Democracy Organising Committee</li> <li>- Mr <u>Ihar Barysau</u>, Chair, Belarusian Social Democratic Party "<u>Hramada</u>"</li> </ul>
<p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p> <p>11:30 – 12:30 Room 10</p>	<p><b>Hearing</b> on "Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress" in the framework of a report prepared by Rapporteur: Lord Richard Keen (United <u>Kingdom</u>, EC/DA), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Christos <u>Giakoumopoulos</u>, Director General, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), Council of Europe</li> <li>- Mr Pablo De <u>Greiff</u>, Director, Transitional Justice Program, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, New York University School of Law; Commissioner, UN Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine; former UN Special Rapporteur for the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (2012-2018)</li> </ul>

Thursday 12 October 2023	
<p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p> <p>and</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p> <p>and</p> <p>Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)</p> <p>8:30 – 10:00 Room 9</p>	<p>Joint hearing on ""Human rights and humanitarian situation of Karabakh Armenians and international obligations of Azerbaijan", with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Mr. Thomas de Waal</a>, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe, London, United Kingdom (online)</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Björn <a href="#">Schiffbauer</a>, Professor of Public Law, European and International Law, University of Rostock, Germany</li> </ul>
<p>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</p> <p>and</p> <p>Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe</p> <p>10:30 – 11:30 Room 6</p>	<p>Joint hearing on "Banning 'conversion practices' for LGBTI persons: a human rights imperative", with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Ms. Dunia Mijatović</a>, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights</li> <li>- <a href="#">a representative</a> of the Francophone Collective "Rien à guérir"</li> </ul>
<p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p> <p>11:45 – 12:30 Room 10</p>	<p>Exchange of views on the "Situation of human rights defenders in Europe" in the framework of a report prepared by Rapporteur General: <a href="#">Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris</a> (Lithuania, EPP/CD) with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Ms. Dunia Mijatović</a>, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe</li> </ul>
<p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p> <p>11:30 – 12:30 Room 7</p>	<p>Exchange of views on "Risks and opportunities of the Metaverse" in the framework of a report prepared by <a href="#">Mr. Andi-Lucian Cristea</a> (Romania, SOC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ambassador <a href="#">Aloisia Wörgetter</a>, Thematic Co-ordinator on Information Policy (TC-INF)</li> </ul>