

Information documents

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9 April 2024

Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1495th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (10 April 2024)

¹ This document covers activities of the Assembly since 7 March 2024 and future activities up to the meeting of the Bureau of 15 April 2024.

I. Main developments between the Assembly's first and second part-session of 2024

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

On 23 February 2024, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly participated in the official ceremony held in Strasbourg marking the second anniversary of the beginning of the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. On the same day, Liechtenstein Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport and President of the Committee of Ministers, Dominique Hasler, PACE President Theodoros Rousopoulos, and Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić made a joint statement expressing their deepest shock by the increase in civilian casualties caused by the Russian bombings as well as their grave concern over the fate of children who had been illegally deported by the Russian Federation from Ukraine or forcibly transferred within the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. Council of Europe leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to justice and to continue working towards ensuring that the Russian civilian and military authorities are held accountable before competent courts for the crimes committed against Ukraine and its people.

On 7 March 2024, in Paris, the Assembly's Standing Committee held a current affairs debate on "Two years of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine". During the debate, members of the Assembly recognised that this was not the time to succumb to war fatigue. They underlined that, as parliamentarians of democratic states, it was their responsibility to build consensus, explain the need for the effort and make citizens understand that the Ukrainian people are fighting for our values and for our future.

On 17 March 2024, the President of the Assembly called not to recognise Vladimir Putin's legitimacy as President, and to cease all contacts with him, except in the pursuit of peace and for humanitarian purposes, for example in organising prisoner exchanges or to bring home the lost children of Ukraine. He underlined that these elections had no legitimacy. There were no genuine alternative candidates, no free media, no credible observers present. Civil society had been silenced. And above all, this election had been conducted on the illegally occupied and annexed territory of Ukraine. In the same spirit, on 20 March 2024, the President of the Assembly urged not to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete in the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. In his view, their participation would be an insult to Ukrainian athletes, several of whom have died because of the war, and the majority of whom are not able to train properly, because of the destruction of sport infrastructure. Moreover, any victory by these athletes, even under a neutral flag, could be celebrated – and used – as a tool for propaganda, creating a narrative of acceptance and normalisation that downplays the gravity of the actions of the Russian and Belarusian Governments.

B. Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit

On 21 March 2024, in Paris, the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media held an exchange of views on *Follow-up to the Reykjavik Declaration: Youth participation in the Committee's work* with the participation of Mr Eric Guiochon, President of the Federation for Diplomacy and the United Nations, France. On 25 March 2024, in Paris, the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable environment held an exchange of views on *The European Social Charter: outlook for social rights after the Reykjavik Summit* with the participation of Ambassador Joan Forner Rovira, Chairperson of the GR-SOC, in the context of the forthcoming High-level Conference on the European Social Charter (3-4 July 2024, Vilnius). On the same day, it also held an exchange of views on *The Council of Europe Development Bank: implementing the Reykjavik Declaration*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Eka Sepashvili (Georgia, EC/DA), with the participation of Mr Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank.

On 12 March 2024, the Assembly's Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination organised a side event in the margins of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The side event – co-organised with Greece and Iceland – focused on "Parliamentarians as drivers for women's empowerment" and saw the participation, among others, of Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister of Social Affairs and the Labour Market of Iceland and Maria Alexandra Kefala, Deputy Minister of Social Cohesion and Family of Greece. The President of the Assembly, Theodoros Rousopoulos, opened the event underlining that there can be no equality without an end to violence against women but there is another important condition for equality, which is women's empowerment. He stressed that we should not be afraid to use the term 'power', which is the means to make

oneself heard, to influence decisions, to shape laws and policies. According to Mr Rousopoulos, there is progress towards equality and empowerment, but it is much too slow, and this is partly due to short-sightedness among men who think (mistakenly) that “power-sharing” means “power-loss”. During his visit to New York, PACE President also met with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. They both agreed that a more effective and properly institutionalised co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe was needed, and that such co-operation would be “exceptionally important for promoting and protecting peace, democracy and human rights in Europe and the whole world”.

On 20 March 2024, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination made a statement stressing that this International day offered the opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved in countering racism at global level, and on how to tackle the challenges that people of African descent still face. It noted with concern that deeply entrenched racism endured and that the current political landscape was a reason for concern, with racist and xenophobic populist movements resisting progress and undermining the struggle for inclusiveness and respect. Therefore, members of the Committee called on fellow politicians and public authorities to counter racism in all its forms, including at institutional level, and multiple and intersectional discrimination and reiterated their support to the Charter of European political parties for a non-racist and inclusive society, based on political parties self-regulation power, as an important tool to prevent and counter racial discrimination.

II. Decisions taken during the meeting of the Bureau (7 March 2024)

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 7 March 2024 in Paris:

- **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;
- **Standing Committee in Paris (7 March 2024):**
 - took note of the requests tabled by the five political groups of the Parliamentary Assembly and decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold current affairs debates on:
 - “Two years of war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine”, and appointed Mr Iulian Bulai (Romania, ALDE) as the first speaker;
 - “The death of Alexei Navalny”, and appointed Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) as the first speaker;
 - updated the draft agenda (Appendix 2);
- **Second part-session of 2024 (Strasbourg, 15-19 April):**
 - took note of the requests tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to hold debates under urgent procedures on “Alexei Navalny’s death and the need to counter Vladimir Putin’s totalitarian regime and its war on democracy”, “The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation and Belarus” (on the basis of a report with the same title currently being prepared by the committee), and “Opinion on the Draft Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law” (subject to its finalisation);
 - drew-up the draft agenda ;
- **Organisation of the Parliamentary Assembly’s part-sessions as from June 2024:** took note of the information provided by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
- **Elections observation:**
 - North Macedonia – Presidential and parliamentary elections (24 April and 8 May 2024): approved the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 3);
- **Issues raised by committees:**

- Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:
 - took note of the letter by the committee and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to visit the ICRC headquarters in Geneva as well as other Geneva based international organisations/agencies, on a date to be decided, in the framework of the follow-up to Resolution 2529 (2024) on “The situation of the children of Ukraine”;
 - decided that this ad hoc committee will be composed of 10 members as follows: 4 members from the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (+ 2 alternates); 2 members from the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (+ 1 alternate); 2 members from the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (+ 1 alternate); 2 members from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (+ 1 alternate), and will be led by the President of the Assembly;
 - in the framework of the follow-up and implementation of paragraph 26 of Resolution 2529 (2024), invited the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to consider setting up a Network on the Situation of the Children of Ukraine, open to all members of the Assembly;
- Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons: took note of the letter by the committee and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the event organised on 6 and 7 June 2024, in Luxembourg, on “The role of national parliaments in supporting the Belarusians in exile” and to invite the committees concerned to appoint members;
- Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:
 - authorised Mr Lulzim BASHA (Albania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on “Support for the Reconstruction of Ukraine” to participate in the event on “Achievements in pursuing accountability since two years of a full-scale invasion of Ukraine” on 8 March, in New-York (at no cost for the Assembly);
 - considered and approved the terms of reference of a “General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus” (Appendix 4), subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network (Paris, 3-4 April 2024):** decided to set up this ad hoc committee and that it would be composed of 5 members from the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and from the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit 2024 “Democracy for the 21st Century” (Athens, 19- 21 March 2024):** approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to participate in the Summit and left it to the members of the ad hoc committee to appoint its chairperson (Appendix 5);
- **Honorary President:** decided to grant the title of Honorary President to Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly from 2022 to 2024;
- **Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2024:** approved the updated proposals (Appendix 6);
- **Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment 2024:** took note of the deadline for submission of nominations to 15 March 2024;

III. Meeting of the Standing Committee (7 March 2024)

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 7 March 2024 in Paris :

- heard a welcome address by Mr Gérard Larcher, President of the French Senate;
- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Czechia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, the Slovak Republic and Türkiye;

- approved the changes in the composition of Assembly committees;
- took note of the preliminary draft agenda of the second part-session of the Assembly (15-19 April 2024);
- ratified the references proposed by the Bureau (see Appendix 7);
- held current affairs debates on:
 - . “Two years of war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine”;
 - . “Death of Alexei Navalny” and heard a statement by Mr Jacques Maire, former rapporteur on “The arrest and detention of Alexei Navalny in January 2021” and “Poisoning of Alexei Navalny”;
- unanimously adopted the following texts on behalf of the Assembly:

Resolution 2535 (2024)	The right to freedom of information: ensuring access to historical documents
Recommendation 2270 (2024)	The right to freedom of information: ensuring access to historical documents
Resolution 2536 (2024)	Precarious and irregular work situations of migrant seasonal and domestic workers

IV. Prizes

➤ **Europe Prize**

On 25 March 2024 in Paris, *the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize* adopted a proposal to amend the Rules on the Europe Prize.

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

➤ On 4 March 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**²:

. held an extra hearing at this meeting on *The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation and Belarus*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC), in view of the proposed forthcoming urgent debate on the subject during the April part-session 2024, with the participation of Ms Tatsiana Khomich, Viktor Babaryka Team Coordinator, Coordination Council Representative for political prisoners, Belarus and Ms Katsiaryna Bublís, Lawyer at the Viasna Human Rights Centre, Vilnius.

➤ On 6 March 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)**³:

. held an exchange of views on *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA) and Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski (North Macedonia, EPP/CD) with the participation of Mr Christian Schmidt, High Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina (online).

➤ On 11-13 March 2024, in New York, the **Ad Hoc Sub-Committee from the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**:

. participated in the United Nations plenary session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) and in the side events taking place on 11-13 March 2024;

² Information not included in the previous communication, which covered the period until 7 March 2024.

³ Information not included in the previous communication, which covered the period until 7 March 2024.

. took part in the side event on 11 March 2024 on *Parliamentarians as drivers for women's empowerment*, co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, Greece and Iceland, with the participation of: Mr Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister of Social Affairs and the Labour Market of Iceland; Ms Maria Alexandra Kefala, Deputy Minister of Social Cohesion and Family of Greece; Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR), Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC), Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC) and Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.

➤ On 18 March 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**:

. held an exchange of views on *Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler (Austria, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Daris Lewis Recio, Legal and Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), Brussels, and Ms Nena Georgantzi, Human Rights Manager, AGE Platform Europe (online);

. heard a presentation of EIGE's toolkit for gender-sensitive parliaments by Ms Carlien Scheele, Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and Ms Elena Anchevska, EIGE Gender Mainstreaming team;

. held a hearing on *Sexual violence against men and boys*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC), with the participation of Mr Gary Williams, CEO of SurvivorsUK, London and Ms Katherine Gambir, Senior Research Advisor at the Women's Refugee Commission (online).

➤ On 19 March 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**:

. heard a presentation of the Joint European Union / Council of Europe Programme "Equality and Freedom from Discrimination for Roma" (EQUIROM) by Mr Manuel Demougeot, Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) and held an exchange of views on *Equality and non-discrimination for Roma and Travellers*.

➤ On 19 March 2024, in Paris, the **No Hate Parliamentary Alliance** and the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**:

. held a joint hearing on *Approaching the theme of migration and asylum during election campaigns: policy instruments in preventing and combating hate speech*, as a follow-up to Resolution 2525(2024) adopted on the basis of the report by the Rapporteur Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), with the participation of Ms Laura Castel, member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, member of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe and Mr Daris Lewis Recio, Legal and Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET).

➤ On 19 and 20 March 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**:

. held an exchange of views on *Immigration, one of the answers to Europe's demographic aging* in the context of a report prepared by Ms Kate Osamor, (United Kingdom, SOC), with the participation of Mr Zakaria Ibrahim, online, cultural mediator of EUROCOOP Servizi "Jungi Mundu", Italy, Ms Dragana Curovic, project manager at SällBo, Sweden and Ms Giulia Cortellesi, co-director at International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI), The Netherlands;

. held an exchange of views on *Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers: a call to clarify their fate*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Julian Pahlke (Germany, SOC), with the participation of Pr. Cristina Cattaneo, Full Professor of Forensic Medicine and Anthropology, Director of LABANOF, Laboratory of Anthropology and Forensic Odontology, University of Milan, Italy;

. held an exchange of views with Ms Fabienne Keller, member of the European Parliament, LIBE Committee and Ms Annalisa Camilli, Journalist at Internazionale newsmagazine and author, in the context of the forthcoming fact-finding visit to Sicily (Italy) aimed at assessing the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the region;

. held an exchange of views on *Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers: a call to clarify their fate*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Julian Pahlke (Germany, SOC), with the participation of Ms Susan Hitchin, Coordinator, DNA Unit, Forensics & Police Data Management Sub-Directorate, INTERPOL General Secretariat and Ms Giulia Bertoluzzi, Director of the documentary film “Strange Fish” on migrants going missing at sea;

. held an exchange of views on *Post-conflict: defusing ticking time bombs for a safe return of displaced populations*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Domagoj Hajduković (Croatia, SOC) with the participation of Mr Dejan Rendulić, representative of the Croatian Mine Center of the Civil Protection Directorate, Croatia, and Lieutenant-colonel Jean-Michel Granger, Head of the governance office of the function related to the treatment of the danger of ammunition and explosives in the French Army;

. held an exchange of views with Ms Claire Hédon, Defender of Rights, France, as a follow-up of the fact-finding visit held on 25 and 26 October 2023 to Calais and Dunkirk areas (France).

➤ On 20 March 2024, in Paris, the **Sub-Committee on Diasporas and Integration (Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons)**:

. held an exchange of views on *Reducing the risk of vulnerability of elderly migrants and improving their welfare*, with the participation of Mr Omar Samaoli, Gerontologist, anthropologist, lecturer in gerontology at the Pierre et Marie Curie and Lille 1 Universities, expert at and founding director of the Gerontological Observatory of Migration in France.

➤ On 20 March 2024, in Paris, the **Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings (Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons)**:

. held an exchange of views on *EU policy development prospects in the field of the fight against migrant smuggling: the EU “Facilitator package”*, with the participation of Ms Mariana Gkliati, Associated Professor at the Law School and at the Public Law and Governance School at the University of Tilburg, the Netherlands, about the proposal tabled by the European Commission to reform the European Union’s legislation aiming to combat the smuggling of migrants.

➤ On 21 March 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**:

. held an exchange of views on *The role of sites of remembrance: places of commemoration and education for democratic citizenship*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Luz Martinez Seijo, (Spain, SOC), with the participation of Mr Rafal Rogulski, Director of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), Poland;

. held a 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), with the participation of Mr Thomas de Waal, Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe, journalist and writer on the Caucasus, United Kingdom (online) and Mr Robert Pickard, expert in cultural heritage law, United Kingdom;

. held an exchange of views on *Follow-up to the Reykjavík Declaration: Youth participation in the Committee’s work*, with the participation of Mr Eric Guiochon, President of the Federation for Diplomacy and the United Nations, France;

. held a hearing on *Propaganda and freedom of information in Europe*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Tonia Antoniazzi (United Kingdom, SOC), with the participation of Ms Eliška Pírková, Global freedom of expression lead, Senior Policy Analyst, Access Now, Belgium and Ms Artemiza-Tatiana Chisca, Head of Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, DGII: Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe;

. held a hearing on *Risks and opportunities of the Metaverse*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Andi-Lucian Cristea (Romania, SOC), with the participation of Mr Martin Signoux, Public Policy Manager, Immersive technology, Metaverse and AI policy, META, Paris, and Mr Patrick Penninckx, Head of Digital Development and Governance Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe;

. held a hearing on *Olympic Movement and peacekeeping: is sport neutrality serving sport values?* In the context of a report prepared by Ms Denisa Elena Neagu (Romania, ALDE), with the participation of Mr Jean-Pierre Siutat, Vice-President of the French National and Olympic Sports Committee (CNOSF) in charge of international relations.

➤ On 25 March 2024 in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**:

. held an exchange of views on *Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavik process*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC), with the participation of Mr Rafael Benitez, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe;

. held an exchange of views on *The European Social Charter: outlook for social rights after the Reykjavik Summit*, with the participation of Ambassador Joan Forner Rovira, Chairperson of the GR-SOC, in the context of the forthcoming High-level Conference on the European Social Charter (3-4 July 2024, Vilnius);

. held an exchange of views on *The Council of Europe Development Bank: implementing the Reykjavik Declaration* in the context of a report prepared by Ms Eka Sepashvili (Georgia, EC/DA), with the participation of Mr Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank.

➤ On 26 March 2024 in Paris, the **Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment**:

. held hearings on *Mainstreaming the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment: key concepts in European and international law* and on *Transforming our modes of governance to adapt our laws, policies and action* with Ms Elisabeth Lambert, Research Director at CNRS - Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Nantes (France); Ms Annalisa Savaresi, Professor at University of Stirling (United Kingdom) and Associate Professor, University of Eastern Finland and Ms Corina Heri, Postdoctoral researcher, Faculty of Law, Zurich University (Switzerland);

. carried out a field visit to Guy Toffeletti social centre in Bagnolet in the framework of the Programme Just Transition by the NGO MakeSense with youth activists.

➤ A PACE delegation carried out a pre-electoral mission on 26-27 March 2024 in Skopje ahead of the presidential and parliamentary elections in North Macedonia (24 April and 8 May 2024) (statement available [here](#)).

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

➤ ***Protecting women human rights defenders and people who defend women's rights in Europe***

Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Warsaw on **4 and 5 March 2024**.

➤ ***Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers: a call to clarify their fate***

Mr Julian Pahlke (Germany, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Greece on **4-8 March 2024**.

➤ ***Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine***

Mr Lulzim Basha (Albania, EPP/CD), rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, participated in the side-event "Achievements in pursuing accountability since two years of a full-scale invasion of Ukraine" in New York on **8 March 2024**.

➤ ***The need for renewed, effective and inclusive multilateralism***

Ms Dora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to the United Nations Headquarters in New York on **12-15 March 2024**.

➤ ***The Council of Europe Development Bank: implementing the Reykjavik Declaration***

Ms Eka Sepashvili (Georgia, EC/DA), rapporteur of the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*, carried out a fact-finding visit to the Council of Europe Development Bank in Paris on **26 March 2024**.

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

➤ ***The role of youth in revitalising democracy***

Ms Sona Ghazaryan (Armenia, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, carried out an online meeting with Council of Europe Youth Advisory Council on **8 April 2024**.

VIII. Seminars and conferences organised by the Assembly

➤ The *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division*, in the framework of the project "Supporting transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice and processes in Georgia – Phase 2" organised on:

- **20 March 2024, Tbilisi:** its steering committee meeting to exchange with main partners (Election Administration of Georgia, Anti-Corruption Bureau) and national stakeholders on accomplishments and results of the previous phase of the project implementation, launch Phase 2, discuss future areas of cooperation as well as adopt the annual Work Plan for 2024.
- **25-26 March 2024, Lopota (Georgia):** a conference *Media and Electoral Processes: upcoming 2024 Parliamentary Elections*, in co-operation with the Georgian Central Election Commission, for representatives of the leading media outlets, journalists and heads of editorial units. The objective of the activity was to promote and facilitate an effective communication platform between representatives of media outlets and the election administration of Georgia in contributing to a fair competitive electoral environment.

➤ The *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division*, in the framework of the project "Improving electoral practice in the Republic of Moldova – Phase 3" organised on:

- **14-15 March 2024, Chisinau:** a Post-Election Analysis Conference focusing on *the impact of the electoral reform, lessons learned, follow-up of recommendations and steps forward following the 5 November 2023 General Local Elections*. The Conference gathered around 160 policy and lawmakers, representatives of the public institutions, political parties, international community, civil society, media, as well as members of the international and local observation missions. Conference outcomes are of particular importance in view of 2024 presidential elections and 2025 parliamentary elections as well as in the context of the implementation of the Accession Agenda of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union.
- **26 March 2024, Chisinau:** a training on *The peculiarities of investigating and prosecuting crimes of illegal financing of political parties, electoral contestants, initiative groups, or electoral campaigns, as well as vote buying*. This workshop strengthened the knowledge and contributed to the unification of practices of over 45 law-enforcement representatives judges, prosecutors, investigation officers in documenting, investigating and settling of financial violations by political parties and electoral contestants during and between election periods.

➤ The *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division*, in the framework of the project on "Supporting democratic post-war elections in Ukraine" organised on:

- **11 March, Kyiv:** a Core Group of Experts meeting on the final draft Risk Assessment and Feasibility Study on Alternative Forms of Voting at Post-War Elections in Ukraine (with a focus on internet (i-) voting), commissioned and conducted upon the request of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development.
- **18 – 22 March, Kyiv:** Certified cybersecurity trainings for the Ukrainian CEC Secretariat staff on *IBM QRadar SIEM Foundations, IBM QRadar SIEM Advanced Topics*. The trainings aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Central Election Commission to deal with the current and possible future cyber-attacks, given the escalating number of cyber-attacks targeting the information systems of Ukrainian state authorities in the context of ongoing war and the need to ensure the protection of respective cybersecurity systems of the Commission. Respective training sessions are the first in a series of specialised cyber security trainings to be held in the coming months upon the request of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine.
- **22 March, Kyiv:** a Coordination meeting with the Central Election Commission of Ukraine and international partners (IFES, International IDEA) on *activities for the development of a comprehensive communication strategy for the first post-war elections in Ukraine*. Regular coordination is maintained within the framework of the Joint Action with the CEC and other international partners launched and supported by the Council of Europe since 2023 regarding the development of communication strategy for the first post-war elections.
- **29 March, Kyiv:** an Expert discussion (in closed format) on the concept of criteria to assess necessary pre-conditions for the conduct of the first post-war elections in Ukraine. Respective discussion is held as a part of expert and consultancy support provided to the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development in the follow-up to the results and agreements reached within the framework of the High-level dialogue “Good democratic governance in Ukraine: achievements, challenges and the way forward in post-war period”.

IX. Relations with the Committee of Ministers

➤ **On 25 March 2024, in Paris,** the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development* held an exchange of views on *The European Social Charter: outlook for social rights after the Reykjavik Summit* with Ambassador Joan Forner Rovira, Chairperson of the GR-SOC, in the context of the forthcoming High-level Conference on the European Social Charter (3-4 July 2024, Vilnius).

X. Cooperation with the Venice Commission

➤ **6 March 2024, in Paris:** 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 the amendments to the Election Code and to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia as adopted by the Georgian parliament on 20 February 2024 and agreed to request to the Venice Commission an opinion on the draft law amending the Law on the National Council of the Judiciary of Poland.

➤ **15-16 March 2024 in Venice (Italy):** the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights'* representative, Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), attended the 138th Plenary session of the Venice Commission in Venice.

➤ **19 March 2024, in Paris:** the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance* met during a joint hearing on *Approaching the theme of migration and asylum during election campaigns: policy instruments in preventing and combating hate speech* and took note of the interest of participants to convey the outcome of the discussions to the Council for Democratic Election through a formal communication as a follow-up to adopted [Resolution 2525\(2024\)](#) *The theme of migration and asylum in election campaigns and its consequences on the reception of migrants and their rights*. In a letter dated 3 April 2024 to the President of the Venice Commission, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly invited the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission to consider the request emanating from PACE Resolution 2525(2024) at the forthcoming meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections, and to examine the

possibility to conduct a preliminary study with a view to develop such a code of conduct for electoral candidates and for the media in particular from the perspective of antidiscrimination including with respect to narratives on migration and asylum.

➤ **11 March 2024** : the President of the Assembly requested an opinion to the Venice Commission on the Romanian Law on Advancing Local Elections.

XI. External relations

- Relations with the European Parliament and other European Union institutions

➤ **7 March 2024, Brussels**: the General Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), spoke at an inter-parliamentary committee meeting on “Women in sport” organised by the European Parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality.

➤ **18 March 2024, Paris**: the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination heard a presentation of EIGE’s toolkit for gender-sensitive parliaments and held an exchange of views with Ms Carlien Scheele, Director of the EU’s Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

- Relations with other international partners

➤ **11-13 March 2024, New York**: the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) and held a side-event, organised in co-operation with Greece and Iceland, on the theme “Parliamentarians as drivers for women’s empowerment”. The President of the Assembly, Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, also travelled to New York to participate in these events and to hold bilateral meetings there. In particular, the PACE President met the UN Secretary General (and a former PACE member) Mr Antonio Guterres to discuss the importance of strengthening and, possibly, institutionalising the dialogue between the United Nations and the Council of Europe with a view to promoting and protecting peace, democracy and human rights in Europe and the wider world. The President also invited Mr Guterres to address the parliamentary Assembly at one of its forthcoming sessions. He also met the current President of the UN General Assembly, Mr Dennis Francis; IPU President, Ms Tulia Ackson; as well as several Permanent Representatives to the UN.

➤ **3-4 April 2024, Paris**: an ad hoc committee of the Bureau composed of 5 members of the Assembly (2 members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and 3 members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable development) participated in the OECD Global Parliamentary network.

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

- . **7 March 2024 – Paris:** Bureau
- . **7 March 2024 – Paris:** Standing committee
- . **11-13 March 2024 – New York:** *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*
- . **18-19 March 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*
- . **19 March 2024 - Paris:** *Joint meeting of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance*
- . **19 March 2024 - Paris:** *Joint meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*
- . **19 March 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*
- . **20 March 2024 - Paris:** *Sub-Committee on Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People and Sub-Committee on Diasporas and Integration (Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons)*
- . **21 March 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*
- . **25 March 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize and the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter.*
- . **26 March 2024 – Paris:** *Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment (Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development)*
- . **27 March 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
- . **4 – 5 April 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights*
- . **14 April 2024 – Strasbourg:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **15 April 2024 – Strasbourg:** *Bureau*

Appendix 1 - Agenda of the April part-session (15-19 April 2024)



Doc. 15937 prov1
09 April 2024

Second part of the 2024 Ordinary Session (15-19 April 2024)

Draft agenda¹

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

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 7 March 2024. Updated, on 2 April 2024, under the authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly, after discussions in the Presidential Committee, to reflect the modifications that will be proposed to the Bureau of the Assembly.

<https://pace.coe.int>



Abbreviations

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


EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance


ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe


UEL: Group of the Unified European Left


NR: Members not belonging to a political group

Symbols

 Presentation, statement

 Deadline for tabling documents

 Lists (speakers, questions)

 Votes

Meetings outside the Chamber

Bureau of the Assembly

Monday: 08:00-09:30

Friday: 08:30-10:00

Committees

Monday: 14:00-15:15

Tuesday: 08:30-10:30

Tuesday: 10:30-12:30

Wednesday: 10:30-12:30

Thursday: 08:30-09:45

Thursday: 14:00-15:15

Political groups

Monday: 09:30-12:00

Monday: 18:00-19:30

Wednesday: 08:30-10:30

Monday 15 April 2024

Sitting No. 8 (12:15-13:00)

1. Opening of the part-session

- 1.1. Statement by the President
- 1.2. Examination of credentials
- 1.3. Changes in the membership of committees
- 1.4. Request(s) for current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure
 - 1.4.1. Urgent procedure debate: "Alexei Navalny's death and the need to counter Vladimir Putin's totalitarian regime and its war on democracy"
 - 1.4.2. Urgent procedure debate: "The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation and Belarus"
 - 1.4.3. Urgent procedure debate: "Draft Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law"
 - 1.4.4. Current Affairs Debate: "The role of the Council of Europe in preventing a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza"
- 1.5. Adoption of the agenda
- 1.6. Approval of the minutes of the Standing Committee (7 March 2024) (AS/Per(2024)PV01)

2. Debate

- 2.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee
 - Presentation by:
 - o Ms Petra BAYR (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)
 - List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 15 April, 10:45)

Sitting No. 9 (15:30-17:30)

3. Joint debate

- 3.1. Relationship between the parliamentary majority and the opposition in a democracy
 - Presentation by:
 - o Ms Elvira KOVÁCS (Serbia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15946)
- 3.2. Promoting the revised Code of Good Practice on Referendums
 - Presentation by:
 - o Ms Isabel MEIRELLES (Portugal, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15940)
 - List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 15 April, 12:00)
 - Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 11 April, 15:30)
 - Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15946)
 - Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15940)

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

- 4.1. Mr Mihail POPȘOI, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
 - List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 15 April, 12:00)

Tuesday 16 April 2024

Sitting No. 10 (14:30-20:00)

5. Elections (14:30-18:00)

5.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

6. Question time (14:30-15:00)

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

📅 Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 15 April, 16:30)

7. Debate

7.1. Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine

☐ Presentation by:

- Mr Lulzim BASHA (Albania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15932)
- Mr Davor Ivo STIER (Croatia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Jur (Doc. 15941)

☐ Statement by:

- Mr Ruslan STEFANCHUK, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 15 April, 16:30)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 12 April, 14:30)

🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15932)

8. Debate

8.1. Application by Kosovo* for membership of the Council of Europe²

☐ Presentation by:

- Ms Dora BAKOYANNIS (Greece, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15958, Doc. 15957)
- Ms Azadeh ROJHAN (Sweden, SOC), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Jur (Doc. ...)
- Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO (Monaco, ALDE), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Ega (Doc. ...)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 15 April, 16:30)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 15 April, 10:00)

🗳️ Vote on a draft opinion (Doc. 15958)

2. *Throughout this text, 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.

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Sitting No. 11 (14:30-20:15)

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

9.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

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

10.1. Communication from the Committee of Ministers

Presentation by:

- o Ms Dominique HASLER, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education, and Sport of Liechtenstein and President of the Committee of Ministers

Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 16 April, 19:00)

11. [Possibly] Joint debate³

11.1. Urgent procedure debate: "Alexei Navalny's death and the need to counter Vladimir Putin's totalitarian regime and its war on democracy"

Presentation by:

- o Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. ...)

11.2. Urgent procedure debate: "The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation and Belarus"

Presentation by:

- o Ms Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR (Iceland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. ...)

Statement by:

- o Ms Evgenia KARA-MURZA

11.3. Sanctions against persons on the "Kara-Murza list"

Presentation by:

- o Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS (Estonia, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15939)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 16 April, 19:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 16 April, 16:00)

Vote on ... ()

Vote on ... ()

Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15939)

12. Debate

12.1. Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe

Presentation by:

- o Mr Christophe LACROIX (Belgium, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 15953)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 16 April, 19:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 15 April, 14:30)

Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15953)

3. Subject to a decision by the Assembly.

13. Debate

13.1. The honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Ionuț-Marian STROE (Romania, EPP/CD), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 15950)
- 📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 16 April, 19:00)
- ⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 15 April, 14:30)
- ⚖️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15950)

Thursday 18 April 2024

Sitting No. 12 (10:00-12:30)

14. Address (10:00-10:30)

14.1. H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein

15. Joint debate

15.1. **Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavik process**

☐ Presentation by:

○ Mr Simon MOUTQUIN (Belgium, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15955)

15.2. **Towards Council of Europe strategies for healthy seas and oceans to counter the climate crisis**

☐ Presentation by:

○ Ms Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA (Ukraine, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15956)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 17 April, 19:00)

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 16 April, 10:00)

🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15955)

🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15956)

Sitting No. 13 (15:30-20:00)

16. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure⁴

16.1. **Draft Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law**

☐ Presentation by:

○ Ms Þórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR (Iceland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. ...)

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 18 April, 11:30)

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 17 April, 16:00)

🗳️ Vote on ... ()

17. [Possibly] Current affairs debate⁵

17.1. **The role of the Council of Europe in preventing a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza**

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 18 April, 11:30)

4. Subject to a decision by the Assembly.

5. Subject to a decision by the Assembly.

Friday 19 April 2024

Sitting No. 14 (10:30-13:00)

18. Debate

18.1. The protection of children against online violence

□ Presentation by:

○ Mr Joseph O'REILLY (Ireland, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15954)

📖 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 18 April, 19:00)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 17 April, 10:30)

⚖️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15954)

19. Progress report (continued)

20. Closure of the part-session

Appendix 2 – Agenda of the Standing Committee – 7 March 2024

AS/Per (2024) OJ 01 rev
5 March 2024

Standing Committee

Revised draft agenda

of the meeting to be held

in Paris on 7 March 2024 from 14:30 to 17:30

at the French Senate (Salle Médicis)

Palais du Luxembourg, 15 rue de Vaugirard

Tel: + 33 (0)1 42 34 20 00

Métro: Odéon, Mabillon, Saint-Sulpice, RER: Luxembourg

1. **Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly**
2. **Welcome address by Mr Gérard Larcher, President of the Senate**
3. **Examination of new credentials** Doc. 15935
4. **Modifications in the composition of committees** Commissions (2024) 03
and addendum
5. **(Possibly) Requests for current affairs debates (under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure)**
Death of Alexei Navalny
Two years of war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine
6. **Agenda** AS/Per (2024) OJ 01 rev
Adoption of the agenda
7. **Second part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (15-19 April 2024)** AS/Bur (2024) 08 rev
Consideration of the preliminary draft agenda
8. **References to committees** AS/Per (2024) 01
Consideration of the proposals submitted by the Bureau of the Assembly

**This document is the convocation to the meeting
for the members of the Standing Committee**

Copy for information to the Secretaries of delegations and political groups

**Members who wish to present amendments
are invited to table them in writing with the Table Office as follows:
Deadline for tabling amendments: Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 14:30**

9. (Possibly) Current affairs debates

- Death of Alexei Navalny

Statement by Mr Jacques Maire, former rapporteur on "The arrest and detention of Alexei Navalny in January 2021" and "Poisoning of Alexei Navalny"

- Two years of war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine

10. Legal Affairs and Human Rights

The right to freedom of information: ensuring access to historical documents

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:
Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC)*

Doc. 15929

Debate

Vote on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation

11. Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Precarious and irregular work situations of migrant seasonal and domestic workers

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:
Ms Diana Stoica (Romania, ALDE)*

Doc. 15930

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable
Development (for opinion):
Mr Pedro Cegonho (Portugal, SOC)*

Doc. 15931
and amendment

Debate

Vote on a draft resolution

12. Other business

13. Next meetings

Vilnius (Lithuania), 24 May 2024
Luxembourg, 29 November 2024

Appendix 3 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the Presidential and parliamentary elections in North Macedonia (24 April and 8 May 2024)

Chairperson / Président : Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse

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

Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Norway / Norvège
Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche⁴
Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye
Mr / M. Antonio GUTIERREZ-LIMONES, Spain / Espagne
Ms / Mme Klotilda BUSHKA, Albania / Albanie

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Givi MIKANADZE, Georgia / Géorgie
Ms / Mme Aurora FLORIDA, Italy / Italie

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

Mr / M. Branislav BORENOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie et Herzégovine
Mr / M. Christian BUCHMANN, Austria / Autriche
Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania / Roumanie
Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚĂGĂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie
Mr / M. Chris SAID, Malta / Malte*
Ms / Mme Jorida TABAKU, Albania / Albanie

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Jan Filip LIBICKI, Poland / Pologne
Mr / M. Ioannis OIKONOMOU, Greece / Grèce
Ms / Mme Catia POLIDORI, Italy / Italie
Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce

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

Mr / M. Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne
Mr / M. Armen GEVORGYAN, Armenia / Arménie
Mr / M. Simone BILLI, Italy / Italie*
Mr / M. Jose Maria SANCHEZ GARCIA, Spain / Espagne

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

Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse*
Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France
Ms / Mme Yevheniia KRAVCHUK, Ukraine

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Dean PREMİK, Slovenia / Slovénie
Ms / Mme Rian VOGELS, The Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Mr / M. Christoph HOFFMANN, Germany / Allemagne
Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye
Ms / Mme Denisa NEAGU, Romania / Roumanie
Ms / Mme Yuliia OVCHYNNIKOVA, Ukraine
Ms / Mme Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie
Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie
Mr / M. Georges-Louis BOUCHEZ, Belgium / Belgique

⁴ members of the pre-election delegation.

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)

Ms / Mme Selivay ÇELENK ÖZEN, Türkiye*

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. George LOUCAIDES, Cyprus / Chypre

Co-rapporteur.e.s AS/MON (ex officio)

Ms / Mme Sibel ARSLAN, Switzerland / Suisse (SOC)

Mr / M. Joseph O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande (EPP/CD- PPE/DC)

Venice Commission / Commission de Venise

Ms / Mme Florence GANOUX, Expert / Experte

Mr / M. Michael JANSSEN, Administrator, Venice Commission / Administrateur, Commission de Venise

Secretariat / Secrétariat

Mr / M. Bogdan TORCĂTORIU, Senior Elections Officer, Secretary of the ad hoc committee, Election Observation and Support Division

Ms / Mme Carine ROLLER-KAUFMAN, Assistant, Election Observation and Support Division

Appendix 4 – General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus: Terms of reference

Denomination: General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus

Term of office: One year, renewable once

Mandate: The General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus ensures the visibility and coherence of the Assembly's action to support a democratic future for Belarus.

Responsibilities: The role of the general rapporteur is to:

- *enhance the capacity of the Assembly to identify, address and react to developments in relation to Belarus, and for advancing a democratic future for Belarus;*
- *promote the establishment of a structured dialogue between the Assembly and the Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the United Transitional Cabinet, the Coordination Council and their respective structures;*
- *maintain relations with the Council of Europe organs, bodies and structures conducting work related to Belarus and follow their relevant activities, representing the Assembly as appropriate;*
- *work and co-ordinate relevant actions with the Assembly's General Rapporteur for political prisoners, the General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and the General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty;*
- *contribute to enhancing the role of the Assembly as a platform to promote a democratic future for Belarus, establishing dialogue with member State Special Representatives to Belarusian democratic forces, civil society and non-governmental organisations with special expertise in this field, in Europe and beyond;*
- *follow activities and maintain, when appropriate, relations with bodies and agencies of the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and with other international governmental and inter-parliamentary organisations;*
- *enhance the external visibility and outreach of the work and role of the Assembly on Belarus, including the follow-up and promotion of adopted resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly and, in appropriate cases, make public statements, launch appeals, or propose to do so to the committee.*

**Appendix 5 – List of members of the ad hoc committee to participate in the WPL Summit 2024
'Democracy for the 21st Century' (Athens, 19-21 March 2024)**

Ms / Mme Laura Castel	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	UEL / GUE
Ms / Mme Elisabetta Gardini	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	EC/DA / CE/AD
Ms / Mme Marietta Karamanli	France	SOC
Ms / Mme Nina Kasimati	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	UEL / GUE
Ms / Mme Pauline Latham	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	EC/DA / CE/AD
Ms / Mme Carla Moonen	Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>	ALDE / ADLE
Ms / Mme Biljana Pantić Pilja	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>	EPP/CD / PPE/DC
Ms / Mme Dunja Simonović Bratić	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>	SOC
Ms / Mme Domenica Spinelli	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	EC/DA / CE/AD
Ms / Mme Maria Syrengela	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	EPP/CD / PPE/DC
Ms / Mme Jorida Tabaku	Albania / <i>Albanie</i>	EPP/CD / PPE/DC
Ms / Mme Liliana Tanguy	France	ALDE / ADLE
Ms / Mme Oleksandra Ustinova	Ukraine	ALDE / ADLE

Appendix 6 – Institutional representation of the Assembly in 2024

Body / Organe	who represents the Assembly / qui représente l'Assemblée	reference	2024
I. Council of Europe bodies / Organes du Conseil de l'Europe			
European Commission for Democracy through Law Venice Commission <i>Commission européenne pour la démocratie par le droit - Commission de Venise</i>	Representatives of the Assembly appointed by the Bureau to attend the sessions of the Commission <i>Représentants de l'Assemblée désignés par le Bureau pour assister aux sessions de la Commission</i>	Article 2.4 of the Venice Commission Statute (Res CM (2002) 3) <i>Article 2.4 du statut de la Commission de Venise (Rés CM (2002) 3)</i>	Members: Mr Tiny KOX (Netherlands, UEL) Appointment by the President Mr Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES (Spain, SOC) (AS/Jur) Substitute: Mr Sergiy VLASENKO (Ukraine, EPP/CD) (AS/Jur)
Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission <i>Conseil des élections démocratiques de la Commission de Venise</i>	Representatives of AS/Pol, AS/Jur and AS/Mon approved by the Bureau of the Assembly <i>Représentants de l'AS/Pol, l'AS/Jur et l'AS/Mon approuvés par le Bureau de l'Assemblée</i>	Bureau decision of 10 March 2003 <i>Décision du Bureau du 10 mars 2003</i>	Members: Mr Michael Georg LINK (Germany, ALDE) (AS/Pol) Mr Pablo HISPÁN (Spain, EPP/CD) (AS/Jur) Ms Laura CASTEL (Spain, UEL) (AS/Mon) Substitutes: Mr Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC (Romania, EPP/CD) (AS/Pol) Ms Octavie MODERT (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) (AS/Jur) Ms Blerina GJYLAMETI (Albania, SOC) (AS/Mon)
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North-South Centre <i>Centre européen pour l'interdépendance et la solidarité mondiales – Centre Nord-Sud</i>	Two members of the Executive Council - appointed by the Bureau of the Assembly <i>Deux membres du Conseil exécutif - désignés par le Bureau de l'Assemblée</i>	Article 4.2 (b) of the North-South Centre revised Statute (Res CM (2011) 6) <i>Article 4.2 (b) du statut révisé du Centre Nord- Sud (Rés CM (2011) 6)</i>	Members: Ms Edite ESTRELA (Portugal, SOC) (AS/Cult) Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC) (AS/Soc) Substitutes: Ms Eka SEPASHVILI (Georgia, EC/DA) (AS/Cult) Ms Carmen LEYTE (Spain, EPP/CD) (AS/Soc)

Body / Organe	who represents the Assembly / qui représente l'Assemblée	reference	2024
<p>European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance – ECRI</p> <p><i>Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance – ECRI</i></p>	<p>Representatives of the Assembly appointed by the Bureau (representatives of the following three committees: AS/Pol, AS/Ega and AS/Cult)</p> <p><i>Représentants de l'Assemblée désignés par le Bureau (représentants des trois commissions suivantes : AS/Pol, AS/Ega et AS/Cult)</i></p>	<p>Article 5 of the ECRI Statute (Res CM (2002) 8)</p> <p><i>Article 5 du statut de l'ECRI (Rés CM (2002) 8)</i></p>	<p>Members:</p> <p>Mr Max LUCKS (Germany, SOC) (AS/Pol)</p> <p>Ms Mia KARAMEHIĆ-ABAZOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina, NR) (AS/Cult)</p> <p>Ms Petra BAYR (Austria, SOC) (AS/Ega)</p> <p>Substitutes:</p> <p>Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT (Türkiye, NR) (AS/Pol)</p> <p>ZZ (AS/Cult)</p> <p>Mr Fourat BEN CHIKHA (Belgium, SOC) (AS/Ega)</p>
<p>Group of States against Corruption – GRECO</p> <p><i>Groupe d'états contre la corruption - GRECO</i></p>	<p>A representative of the Assembly appointed by the Bureau</p> <p><i>Un représentant de l'Assemblée désigné par le Bureau</i></p>	<p>CM decision of 717th meeting in 2000 in accordance with Article 7.2 of the Statute of the GRECO</p> <p><i>Décision du CM lors de la 717ème réunion en 2000 selon l'Article 7.2. du Statut du GRECO</i></p>	<p>Member:</p> <p>Ms Agnes Sirkka PRAMMER (Austria, SOC) (AS/Jur)</p> <p>Substitute:</p> <p>Ms Elena-Simona SPĂTARU (Romania, ALDE) (AS/Jur)</p>
<p>Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI)</p> <p><i>Comité d'expert-es sur l'intelligence artificielle, l'égalité et la discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI)</i></p>	<p>The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:</p> <p>– Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;</p> <p><i>Peuvent envoyer des représentants sans droit de vote et à la charge de leurs budgets administratifs respectifs :</i></p> <p>– <i>l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe ;</i></p>	<p>CM/Res(2021)3</p>	<p>Ms Mireille CLAPOT (France, ALDE)</p>
<p>Committee for Works of Art (C-ART)</p> <p><i>Comité des œuvres d'art (C-ART)</i></p>	<p>Two members appointed by the Bureau of the Assembly (at present AS/Cult Committee member and Museum Prize rapporteur)</p> <p><i>Deux membres désignés par le Bureau de l'Assemblée (actuellement un membre de l'AS/Cult et le rapporteur du Prix du musée)</i></p>	<p>CM decision of 482nd meeting in 1992</p> <p><i>Décision du CM lors de la 482ème réunion en 1992</i></p>	<p>Member:</p> <p>Mr Constantinos EFSTATHIOU (Cyprus, SOC) (AS/Cult)</p> <p>Substitute:</p> <p>Mr David MORRIS, (United Kingdom, EC/DA) (AS/Cult)</p>

Body / Organe	who represents the Assembly / qui représente l'Assemblée	reference	2024
MONEYVAL	<p>A representative of the Assembly appointed by the Bureau</p> <p><i>Un représentant de l'Assemblée désigné par le Bureau</i></p>	<p>Article 4.1 of Resolution CM/Res (2010) 12</p> <p><i>Article 4.1 de la Résolution CM/Res (2010) 12</i></p>	<p>Member:</p> <p>Ms Maria-Gabriela HORGA (Romania, EPP/CD) (AS/Jur)</p> <p>Substitute:</p> <p>Ms Klotilda BUSHKA (Albania, SOC) (AS/Jur)</p>
<p>Committee of Experts on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (PC-ENV)</p> <p><i>Comité d'experts sur la protection de l'environnement par le droit pénal (PC-ENV)</i></p>	<p>The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:</p> <p>– Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;</p> <p><i>Peuvent envoyer des représentants sans droit de vote et à la charge de leurs budgets administratifs respectifs :</i></p> <p>– <i>l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe ;</i></p>	CM/Res(2021)3	<p>Members:</p> <p>Mr Constantinos EFSTATHIOU (Cyprus, SOC) (AS/Jur)</p> <p>Ms Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA (Ukraine, ALDE) (AS/Soc)</p> <p>Substitutes:</p> <p>ZZ (AS/Jur)</p> <p>Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC) (AS/Soc)</p>
<p>Committee on offences relating to cultural property (PC-IBC) / Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)</p> <p><i>Comité sur les infractions visant les biens culturels (PC-IBC) / Comité directeur de la culture, du patrimoine et du paysage (CDCPP)</i></p>	<p>The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:</p> <p>– Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;</p> <p><i>Un représentant de l'Assemblée désigné par le Bureau;</i></p>	<p>STCE n°221</p> <p>CM(2017)32, Chapter V, Article 23.1</p> <p>SG/Inf(2012)12</p>	Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC) (AS/Cult)
II. Others / Autres			
<p>EUROPA NOSTRA Pan-European Federation for Heritage</p> <p><i>EUROPA NOSTRA - Fédération paneuropéenne du patrimoine</i></p>	<p>One member (and substitute) to be nominated by the Assembly - to attend the Federation Council meetings as observer</p> <p><i>Un membre (et son/sa suppléant/e) qui seront désignés par l'Assemblée pour assister aux réunions du Conseil de la Fédération en tant qu'observateurs</i></p>	Article 21.4 of the Statute of Europa Nostra	<p>Member:</p> <p>ZZ (AS/Cult)</p> <p>Substitute:</p> <p>ZZ (AS/Cult)</p>

Appendix 7 - References and transmissions to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Putting an end to collective expulsions of aliens**

Doc. 15903

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons for report

2. **Enhancing cooperation between parliaments and equality bodies**

Doc. 15905

Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination for report

3. **Strengthening mechanisms for early warning and action in conflict prevention**

Doc. 15906

Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for report and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) for opinion

4. **Media pluralism under threat in Poland**

Doc. 15907

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Arkadiusz Mularczyk (Poland, EC/DA) and other members of the Assembly

Reference 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 preparation of the report on "The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland"

5. **Breaches of the rule of law in Poland as regards the prosecution service**

Doc. 15908

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Marcin Romanowski (Poland, EC/DA) and other members of the Assembly

Reference 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 preparation of the report on "The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland"

6. **The illegal detention of parliamentarians in Poland**

Doc. 15911

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Arkadiusz Mularczyk (Poland, EC/DA) and other members of the Assembly

Reference 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 preparation of the report on "The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland"

7. **Externalising asylum increases the risk of undermining the system of international protection**

Doc. 15912

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Andrea Orlando (Italy, SOC) and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures"

8. ***Alexei Navalny's death and the need to counter Vladimir Putin's totalitarian regime and its war on democracy***
Doc. 15936

Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report

B. *REPLY AFTER CONSULTATION*

1. ***A parliamentary sponsorship programme between the Parliamentary Assembly members and human rights defenders or the politically oppressed***
Doc. 15752

Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Derya Türk-Nachbaur (Germany, SOC) and other members of the Assembly

No further action