



Information documents

SG-AS (2025) 07

24 September 2025

Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1538th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (24 September 2025)

¹ This document covers activities of the Assembly since the meeting of the Bureau of 27 June 2025 up to the meeting of the Bureau of 29 September 2025.

I. Main developments between the Assembly's June 2025 part-session and the September 2025 part-session

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

On 10 September 2025, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, joined the [President](#) of the Parliamentary Assembly in [condemning](#) the unacceptable and intentional violation of Polish airspace by the Russian Federation and expressed its solidarity with Poland. The Committee emphasised that, while diplomatic efforts to end the war of aggression were intensifying, the Russian Federation was responding by stepping up its attacks against Ukraine and beyond. This, it added, was a further demonstration that the Russian Federation was not serious about peace and diplomacy. The committee condemned this further escalation of the war of aggression against Ukraine, reiterating its urgent call for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. The Russian Federation must stop its unprovoked aggression and be held accountable for its crimes. The committee also called for greater support for Ukraine in order to ensure its security, its European future, and the protection of democratic security across the entire continent."

On 28 August 2025, reacting to the most destructive Russian bombing of Kyiv since the start of the war of aggression against Ukraine, Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on the political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, issued a statement condemning the attack. He added that that the Russian Federation did not want peace but wanted Ukraine to surrender, brought to its knees by the bombs. He stressed that there could be no surrender and that Ukraine must be supported in defending its freedom and independence. On the same day, the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Network of Children of Ukraine, Ms Olena Khomenko [condemned](#) this atrocity in the strongest possible terms, urging all European partners and the international community to take immediate, concrete action to stop the killing of Ukrainian children.

B. Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit

On 12 September 2025, in Malta, the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and its Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe organised, in cooperation with the Maltese Parliament and under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, a [conference](#) on Ensuring equality for rainbow families. Speakers at the parliamentary conference urged changes in law and policy to ensure rainbow families enjoy equal rights across all 46 member states of the Council of Europe, and warned of the need to counter skepticism about their rights, while legal and NGO experts pointed to good examples of laws that guarantee legal parental recognition for rainbow families, giving them access to services and other basic protections, and urged cross-border recognition of these rights. Participants raised in or parenting as part of rainbow families also bore testimony to their experiences.

On 9-10 September, as part of a project to strengthen ethical and integrity standards in parliaments across Council of Europe member states, the [Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities](#), in co-operation with the OSCE-ODIHR, co-organised a [study visit](#) to the Houses of Parliament in London. The visit brought together delegations of parliamentarians from the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the National Assembly of North Macedonia to consider how parliaments can develop effective, enforceable codes of ethics, to prevent, detect and investigate breaches of ethical standards and cases of corruption. Participants had the opportunity to study Westminster's range of models for upholding ethical standards, including the different models for instilling independence into bodies responsible for enforcing ethical standards. These included the role of independent investigators under the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme, the functional independence of the Commissioners for Standards, and the appointment of lay members as part of the composition of the Committee on Standards. A key theme of the sessions was the importance of codes of conduct for parliamentarians and the different ways they can be implemented.

II. Meeting of the Bureau (5 September 2025)

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday, 5 September 2025, in Paris:

- **Communications:**
 - took note of the communication by the President of the Assembly;
 - held an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly:** held an exchange of views with Dr Despina Chatzivassiliou (Greece) (in camera);
- **Fourth part-session of 2025 (Strasbourg, 29 September – 3 October):**
 - *Request for a debate under urgent procedure:*
 - took note of the request by the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media to hold a debate under urgent procedure on the *Reporting from Gaza: an urgent call to protect the lives of journalists and support their work*;
 - *Request for a current affairs debate:*
 - took note of the request by the ALDE group to hold a current affairs debate on the *Political crisis in Serbia*;
 - drew up the draft agenda
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 2, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;
- **Election observation:**
 - *Republic of Moldova: parliamentary elections (28 September 2025):* took note of the [statement](#) of the pre-electoral delegation, approved the revised list of members of the *ad hoc* committee to observe these elections, and appointed Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE) as Vice-Chairperson (Appendix 3);
 - *Proposal for testing the feasibility of observing out-of-country voting in the context of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova (28 September 2025):* took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, decided to observe out-of-country voting in the context of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova on 28 September 2025, as a test, approved the relevant methodology for this exercise, and declassified the memorandum;
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2026:** approved the proposals contained in the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat (Appendix 4);
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the shortlist made by the Selection Panel at its meeting in Prague on 26 August 2025, consisting of (in alphabetical order): Ms Mzia Amaghlobeli (Georgia), Mr Maksym Butkevych (Ukraine) and Mr Ulvi Hasanli (Azerbaijan);
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:* authorised the General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty, Ms Gala Veldhoen (Netherlands, SOC), to attend an event co-organised by DG1 and the National Human Rights Council of Morocco in Rabat on 10 October 2025, on the occasion of the world day against the death penalty (at no cost to the Assembly);
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:**
 - authorised the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine (Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) to meet in Tallinn on 17 October 2025 (financed by voluntary contributions);

III. Prizes

➤ **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**

Meeting in Prague, on 26 August 2025, 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 2025 Award. In alphabetical order:

Mzia Amaghlobeli, Georgia
Maksym Butkevych, Ukraine
Ulvi Hasanli, Azerbaijan

The overall winner of the 2025 Prize is due to be announced at the opening of PACE's Autumn plenary session in Strasbourg on 29 September 2025.

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

➤ On 3-4 September 2025, a PACE delegation carried out a **pre-electoral mission** in Chisinau, followed by the observation of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova on 28 September 2025 as part of an International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) including the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament.

➤ On 4 September 2025, in Paris, the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media** held an exchange of views on *Youth movements for democracy*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Nina Grmuša, Chairperson of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) and of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), Council of Europe.

➤ On 4 September 2025, in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:**

. held a hearing on *European guidelines to counter social dumping and labour exploitation*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Valérie Piller Carrard (Switzerland, SOC), with the participation of Ms Séverine Picard, Founder and Director General of *Progressive Policies*, and Ms Bruna Campanello (online), member of the steering committee of UNIA trade union (Switzerland);

. held a hearing on *the situation of Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Jan Filip Libicki (Poland, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Volodymyr Hera, lecturer at the Military Academy and lieutenant colonel in the Ukrainian army, Mr Mykhailo Bakaliuk (online), veteran, and Mr Danylo Kryvko (online), Director of the State Rehabilitation Centre "Halychyna".

➤ On Friday 5 September 2025, in Paris, the **Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities** held an exchange of views on *Conflict of interest – establishing clear guidance for members of the Assembly for dealing with potential, perceived or actual conflict of interest*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Daniel Greenberg, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards of the House of Commons (online), and Ms Estelle Martin, Council of Europe Ethics Officer.

➤ On 8 September 2025, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:**

. held an exchange of views on *Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, in the context of the follow-up to a report prepared by Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), with the participation of Mr Jörg Polakiewicz, Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law (DLAPIL), Council of Europe;

. held a hearing on *Updating the Venice Commission Rule of Law Checklist: a contribution by the Assembly*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC), with the participation of Mr Iain Cameron, member of the Venice Commission in respect of Sweden (online), Ms Erinda Ballanca, People's Advocate of Albania and Professor Laurent Pech, Dean of Law and Head of the Sutherland School of Law at the University College Dublin;

. held a hearing on *Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), with the participation of

Mr Charles Baubion, Team Leader for Information Integrity and Foreign Interference, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Dr András Kristóf Kádár, attorney-at-law and Co-chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and Ms Katarína Batková, Executive Director at VIA IURIS (Slovakia) (online).

➤ On 9 September 2025, 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 *Recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, in the context of a report on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina” prepared by Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, ECPA) and Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Elmedin Konaković, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

. held an exchange of views on *The impact of the transparency legislation on civil society in Georgia*, in the context of a report on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia” prepared by Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC) and Ms Sabina Čudić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Eka Gigauri, Executive Director, Transparency International Georgia, and Mr Dave Elseroad, Head of Advocacy and Geneva Office, Human Rights House Foundation;

. held an exchange of views on *The state of Spain’s implementation of the recommendations of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) concerning preventing corruption* in parliament, judiciary, central governments and law enforcement agencies, in the context of a report on “The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Spain (periodic monitoring report)” prepared by Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD) and Ms Valentina Grippo (Italy, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Sophie Meudal Leenders, Senior Legal Adviser, Secretariat of the GRECO, Council of Europe.

➤ On 10 September 2025, in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** held a hearing on the *Recent developments in the Middle East*, followed by an exchange of views. with the participation of Mr Ramiz Alakbarov, Deputy Special Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Coordinator, Officer in Charge, Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) (online) Ms Ben Ari, Chair of the Observer Delegation of Israel to the Parliamentary Assembly, and Mr Rawhi Fattouh, Speaker of the Palestinian National Council.

➤ On 11 September 2025, in San Anton (Malta), the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination** held an exchange of views on *Overview of the situation on equality and non-discrimination in Malta*, with the participation of Dr Helena Dalli, former European Commissioner for Equality, Ms Renee Laiviera, Commissioner of the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, Ms Samantha Pace Gasan, Commissioner on Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and Ms Miriam Teuma, Chief Executive Officer of Malta’s National Youth Agency.

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

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

Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD) and **Mr Yves Cruchten** (Luxembourg, SOC), 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 Sofia on **2 and 3 July 2025**.

➤ ***The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)***

Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Paris on **2 July 2025**.

➤ ***Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine***

Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Kyiv from **21 to 23 July 2025**.

➤ ***For a ban on so-called conversion therapies***

Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Malta on **15 and 16 September 2025**.

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

➤ The situation of national minorities in Ukraine

Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out an online meeting with Mr Nicolas Levrat, United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues on **2 July 2025**.

➤ *Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media*

Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out an online meeting with Ms Claire Dilé, Government Affairs Director at X on **11 July 2025**.

VII. Other activities of members of the Assembly

Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, participated in the International Human Rights Conference in Budapest, on 27 June 2025.

Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), in her capacity as representative of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination* in the ECRI, participated in the 98th plenary meeting of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), in Strasbourg, on 3 July 2025.

Mr Paulo Pisco (Portugal, SOC), rapporteur for follow-up on Resolution 2612 (2025) and Recommendation 2298 (2025) *Saving the lives of migrants at sea and protecting their human rights*, participated in the event “Stocktaking Event on GRF Pledges | From Pledges to Practice: Scaling Up Responses on Alternatives to Detention, Protection at Sea and Trafficking” organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva on 7 July 2025.

Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) and **Mr Georgios Stamatis** (Greece, EPP/CD), members of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, participated in the Annual Conference of the Gender Equality Commission on “Tackling sexism and violence against women: an essential step towards equal participation”, in Siġġiewi (Malta), on 17 and 18 September 2025.

VIII. PACE parliamentary and electoral cooperation activities

The **PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division**, through the Project “*Improving Electoral Practice in the Republic of Moldova, 2025-2028*”:

➤ **24 - 26 June 2025, Bern, Switzerland:** organised a study visit for the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Moldova’s Electoral Administration to Bern, Switzerland. The visit aimed to facilitate learning and exchange with Swiss federal and cantonal authorities on good practices in key areas including: alternative voting methods (particularly for voters abroad); oversight of political and electoral financing; combatting mis/disinformation in elections and ensuring the (cyber)security and the integrity of the electoral process. The delegation also engaged with the Moldovan diaspora to raise awareness about electoral procedures and processes ahead of the 28 September 2025 Parliamentary election in the Republic of Moldova.

➤ **8 - 9 July 2025, Chisinau:** in cooperation with six other national and international partners, co-organised the Regional Conference on “Money in Politics” (3rd edition). The Conference provided a platform for peer exchange and strategic dialogue, aimed at confronting digital-era challenges and advancing a shared agenda for transparency, integrity, and electoral resilience. By bringing together key actors from across Eastern Europe, the conference’s main goal was to support the identification of stronger safeguards, smarter oversight, and more coordinated responses to the growing threats facing democracies in the region and beyond.

➤ **26 - 27 July 2025, outside Chisinau:** organised an electoral school for around 20 journalists to familiarise them with latest amendments to electoral legislation and the specific procedures of the 2025 Parliamentary elections, including the prospects of postal voting as an alternative voting method. Journalists explored topics such as the financing of electoral campaigns, the digitalisation of electoral processes, and the information tools available from the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to support accurate and timely reporting.

- **July - September 2025, Chisinau:** the activity aimed to enhance the CEC's preparedness for effective communication with electoral stakeholders and the media, as well as to address disinformation and manage image crises during the electoral period leading up to the 28 September 2025 Parliamentary election. A Council of Europe consultant is providing expert communication support to the CEC in handling critical situations/cases.
- **July - September 2025, Republic of Moldova:** supported the organisation of the initiative "Democracy Café" to promote a model of active young voter behavior ahead of the September 2025 Parliamentary election through online and offline information sessions activities based on the Council of Europe's toolkit Vote Outside the Box. Targeted audiences include young people from educational (VET, universities), youth centers, prison institutions throughout the country aged 18-35 years (observing gender mainstream and gender equality).
- **August – September 2025, Republic of Moldova:** supported the implementation of the automated data collection tool (Tool) tailored to monitor sexist speech and behaviour of selected electoral candidates during the 2025 Parliamentary elections. The Tool features an interactive dashboard that visualises collected data and engagement metrics in an intuitive and accessible format (keyword tracking, content categorisation, etc.).
- **15 - 16 August 2025, Chisinau:** organised a training to strengthen the capacities of around 35 district electoral councils' representatives regarding the management of financial sources allocated for the September 2025 Parliamentary elections.
- **August - September 2025, Republic of Moldova:** developed a Manual for members of the electoral management bodies operating abroad for the September 2025 Parliamentary election. This manual/guide contains all the details of the electoral procedures to be performed by electoral management bodies at polling stations abroad, updated in accordance with the latest legal provisions (from their first working day and till the submission of the voting results).
- **August - September 2025 Republic of Moldova:** supported citizens' monitoring of the September 2025 Parliamentary election developments in the polling stations abroad: electoral period, including the E-day.
- **September 2025, Republic of Moldova:** conducted a citizens' awareness campaign to combat sexism, harassment, and violence against women in elections. This campaign included an anti-sexist video spot, approved by Central Election Commission as a message of public interest and distributed through various public channels – public transport, TVs, online platforms etc.
- **4 September 2025, Chisinau:** organised a training for around 30 judges and prosecutors from across the Republic of Moldova with the aim of strengthening knowledge about electoral dispute resolution towards the Parliamentary election of the Republic of Moldova. The event was co-organised with the National Institute of Justice of the Republic of Moldova and the Central Electoral Commission.
- **5 - 7 September 2025, outside Chisinau:** organised a Summer School for Young People - an electoral awareness raising activity for about 20 young people, with a focus on first voters. The activity was organised in cooperation with the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training aimed at encouraging young people to actively take part into electoral and public processes.

The **PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division**, through the Project *"Supporting democratic post-war elections in Ukraine – Phase II"*:

- **3 – 4 July 2025, Lviv, Ukraine:** co-organised the fourth round of the High-Level Dialogue "Good Democratic Governance in Ukraine: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward in Post-War Period", which took place in Lviv to discuss progress and agree on further actions to improve the legal framework on multilevel governance and elections. The Dialogue, co-organised and facilitated by the Secretariats of the Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and the Venice Commission, brought together high-level officials of the key Ukrainian stakeholders, including the First Deputy Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament, leadership and members of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development, members of the Ukrainian Parliament representing different political parties and factions/groups, leadership and representatives of the Central Election Commission, senior officials from the Ministry for Communities and Territorial Development of Ukraine, representatives of local authorities, oblasts and cities, as well as profile civil society organisations. The dialogue provided a platform for forward-looking and inclusive exchange on the legal and institutional preconditions for conducting democratic post-war elections in Ukraine. Ukrainian legislators, the Central Election Commission, and representatives of civil society and expert community engaged in constructive discussions on constitutional and legal preconditions for future elections, including related to the transitional period, necessary for calling, organising and conducting post-war elections. Participants explored further steps to improve the current electoral legislation in light of possible legal

mechanisms and practical measures to ensure the integrity, inclusiveness, and security of the post-war electoral process.

➤ **19 – 21 August 2025, London:** A high-level Ukrainian delegation, comprising leadership and senior officials from the Central Election Commission of Ukraine and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, undertook a three-day working visit to London aimed at fostering peer-to-peer exchanges with the UK authorities and deepening bilateral cooperation on election matters. The visit was organised in close coordination with the UK Electoral Commission and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, with the support of the Project. A key outcome of the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Electoral Commission and the Central Election Commission of Ukraine, marking a significant step towards strengthening institutional ties and collaboration on election-related matters. During the visit, the two electoral commissions engaged in in-depth discussions covering a wide range of issues, including mis- and dis-information in elections, out-of-country voting, voter education and public awareness raising, and political finance regulation. Special emphasis was placed on the legal and operational frameworks required to facilitate Ukrainian citizens residing or staying in the UK to participate in Ukraine's post-war elections.

The **PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division** through the project “*Supporting Transparency, Inclusiveness and Integrity of Electoral Practice and Process in Georgia - Phase 2*”.

➤ **25 September 2025, Georgia:** will organise a one-day workshop on Disability Rights and Inclusive Electoral Participation. Despite continuous efforts by the Georgian election administration to improve accessibility and inclusiveness of persons with disabilities in electoral processes, significant challenges persist. Vulnerable groups are still underrepresented to have a voice and impact decision-making throughout the electoral cycle. Among others, approximately 65% of polling stations remain difficult for wheelchair users to access, and 38% have unsuitable interior layouts, highlighting the need for continued improvements to ensure equal participation for all voters. At the workshop disabled persons, representatives from their associations and citizen lead initiatives will gain a stronger understanding of international standards and good practices aimed at enhancing their rights. They will identify existing barriers in the national context and contribute to actionable recommendations. The workshop will foster collaboration among election stakeholders to advance inclusive electoral participation.

The **PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division**, through the Project “*Supporting transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice and processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Phase II*”:

➤ **24-25 July, Sarajevo:** organised a Needs Assessment Mission to support the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Bosnia and Herzegovina in establishing a permanent, modern, dynamic, and flexible Centre for Education aimed at enhancing the professionalisation and independence of the election administration. The mission was carried out with the expertise of the Director of the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training of the Republic of Moldova. It resulted in a comprehensive report providing clear and actionable recommendations for the establishment of the Centre for Education within the CEC of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The **PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division**, through the Project “*Strengthening Elections Integrity in Albania*”:

➤ **September 2025, Albania:** launched a new project “Support to the Electoral Cycle in Albania”, co-funded by the European Union and Council of Europe. The project will run for 36 months and aims to support a democratic, transparent, and inclusive election process in Albania, which is a key priority for the country on its path toward the European Union accession. The action focuses on strengthening the independence and institutional capacity of the Central Election Commission (CEC) and fostering inclusive participation of civil society and media in the electoral processes.

➤ **25 September 2025, Albania:** will organise a roundtable discussion with stakeholders on the functionalities of the Complaints Tracking Module (CTM). The activity aims to discuss with the electoral stakeholders and CEC staff on the functionalities of this IT tool, collect their final feedback to address potential recommendations for improvement and equip them with the knowledge how to use it. The CTM is an IT tool supported by the ‘Strengthening Electoral Integrity’ to help the Central Election Commission (CEC) in Albania to efficiently handle the electoral complaints and increase transparency in election disputes resolution. Its beta version was launched on the election day, 11 May 2025.

IX. Seminars and conferences organised by the Assembly

➤ **12 September 2025, San Anton (Malta):** the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination* and its *Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons* organised, with the Maltese Parliament under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, a conference on “Ensuring equality for rainbow families in Europe”.

X. Cooperation with the Venice Commission

➤ Legal advice was provided by representatives of the Venice Commission to the PACE delegation observing the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova on 28 September 2025.

XI. External relations

- Relations with the European Parliament and other European Union institutions

➤ A PACE delegation observed the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova on 28 September 2025 as part of an International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) including the European Parliament.

- Relations with other international partners

➤ A PACE delegation observed the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova on 28 September 2025 as part of an International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) including the ODIHR and the OSCE PA.

➤ On 9 and 10 September 2025, the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities organised in cooperation with ODIHR, a study visit to the UK House of Parliament, for parliamentary delegations from the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and from the National Assembly of North Macedonia, as part of a project to strengthen ethical and integrity standards in parliaments.

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

- . **4 September 2025 - Paris:** *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*
- . **4 September 2025 - Paris:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*
- . **4 September 2025 - Paris:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **5 September 2025 - Paris:** *Bureau*
- . **5 September 2025 - Paris:** *Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities*
- . **8 September 2025 - Paris:** *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*
- . **9 September 2025 - Paris:** *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*
- . **10 September 2025 - Paris:** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
- . **11 September 2025 - San Anton (Malta):** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*
- . **12 September 2025 - San Anton (Malta):** *Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe*
- . **13 September 2025 - Thessaloniki (Greece) :** *Presidential Committee*
- . **15 September 2025 - Paris:** *Committee on the Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights*
- . **28 September 2025 - Strasbourg:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **29 September 2025 - Strasbourg:** *Bureau*



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Fourth part of the 2025 Ordinary Session (29 September - 3 October 2025)

Draft agenda¹

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 5 September 2025. Updated, on 24 September 2025, under the authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly, to reflect modifications to be proposed to the Bureau of the Assembly



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)

Rul: Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities

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





ECPA: European Conservatives, Patriots and Affiliates

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

Joint Committee

Monday: 15:00-16:30

Bureau of the Assembly

Monday: 08:00-09:30

Friday: 08:30-10:00

Committees

Monday: 14:00-15:00

Tuesday: 08:30-10:00

Tuesday: 14:00-15:30

Wednesday: 14:00-15:30

Thursday: 08:30-10:00

Thursday: 14:00-16:00

Political groups

Monday: 09:30-11:30

Monday: 17:30-19:30

Wednesday: 08:30-10:00

Monday 29 September 2025

Sitting No. 28 (11:30-13:00)

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. Current affairs debate: "Political crisis in Serbia"
 - 1.4.2. Debate under urgent procedure: "Reporting from Gaza: an urgent call to protect the lives of journalists and support their work"
 - 1.4.3. Debate under urgent procedure: "Draft convention establishing an international claims commission for Ukraine"
 - 1.4.4. Debate under urgent procedure: "Democracy, rule of law and inclusive dialogue in Türkiye"
 - 1.4.5. Current affairs debate: "Russia: new threats to European democracies"
- 1.5. Adoption of the agenda

2. Debate

- 2.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Zsolt NÉMETH (Hungary, ECPA), Rapporteur AS/Bur ([Doc. 16257](#), [Doc. 16257 Add. 1](#))
- 2.2. Observation of the presidential election in Poland (18 May and 1 June 2025)
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Bur ([Doc. 16258](#))
 - ☒ List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 29 September, 10:00)

3. Prize Award Ceremony (12:30-13:00)

- 3.1. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize²

Sitting No. 29 (16:30-17:30)

4. Debate (continued)

- 4.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Zsolt NÉMETH (Hungary, ECPA), Rapporteur AS/Bur ([Doc. 16257](#), [Doc. 16257 Add. 1](#))
- 4.2. Observation of the presidential election in Poland (18 May and 1 June 2025)
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Bur ([Doc. 16258](#))
 - ☒ List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 29 September, 10:00)

2. See separate programme, [AS/Inf\(2025\)11](#).

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


5. Election (10:00-13:00)

5.1. Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly

- ☐ List:
 - o (Doc. 16226)

6. Question time (10:00-10:45)


6.1. Mr Alain BERSET, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

 Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 29 September, 16:30)

7. [Possibly] Current affairs debate

8. Address (12:00-13:00)

8.1. Mr Nikol PASHINYAN, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia


 Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 29 September, 16:30)

Sitting No. 31 (15:30-20:00)

9. Address (15:30-16:30)

9.1. Communication from the Committee of Ministers

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Ian BORG, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta, President of the Committee of Ministers


 Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 30 September, 12:00)


10. Debate


10.1. The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Zsolt NÉMETH (Hungary, ECPA), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 16245)

- ☐ Statement by:
 - o Mr Maulen ASHIMBAYEV, Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 30 September, 12:00)


 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 29 September, 16:00)


 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16245)


11. Debate

11.1. The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Hungary

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS (Estonia, ALDE), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 16249)
 - o Mr George PAPANDREOU (Greece, SOC), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 16249)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 30 September, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 29 September, 16:00)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16249)

Sitting No. 32 (10:00-13:00)


12. Debate


12.1. Journalists matter: the need to step up efforts to liberate Ukrainian journalists held in captivity by the Russian Federation

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 16237)
- o Ms Nadejda IORDANOVA (Bulgaria, NR), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Jur (Doc. 16251)


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 30 September, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 30 September, 10:30)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16237)

13. Address (12:00-13:00)

13.1. Her Excellency Ms Myriam SPITERI DEBONO, President of Malta

 Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 30 September, 19:00)

Sitting No. 33 (15:30-20:00)

14. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure or current affairs debate

15. Debate


15.1. Youth movements for democracy


☐ Presentation by:


- o Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 16239)

☐ Statement by:

- o Hon. Clifton GRIMA, Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation of Malta

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 1 October, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 30 September, 16:00)


 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 16239)


16. Debate


16.1. Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Deborah BERGAMINI (Italy, EPP/CD), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 16246)
- o Mr Yves CRUCHTEN (Luxembourg, SOC), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 16246)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 1 October, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 30 September, 16:00)


 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16246)


17. Debate


17.1. Russian democratic forces

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS (Estonia, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 16247)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 1 October, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 30 September, 16:00)




 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16247)

Sitting No. 34 (10:00-13:00)

18. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure or current affairs debate

19. Debate




19.1. Political parties and democracy

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Ms Ingrid Schie SCHOU (Norway, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol ([Doc. 16248](#))
-  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 1 October, 19:00)
-  Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 1 October, 10:30)
-  Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 16248](#))

Sitting No. 35 (16:00-20:00)




20. Debate

20.1. Draft Council of Europe convention on the co-production of audiovisual works in the form of series

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Ms Valentina GRIPPO (Italy, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Cult ([Doc. 16238](#))
-  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 2 October, 12:00)
-  Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 1 October, 16:30)
-  Vote on a draft opinion ([Doc. 16238](#))



21. Debate

21.1. Artificial intelligence and migration

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Petri HONKONEN (Finland, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Mig ([Doc. 16240](#))
-  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 2 October, 12:00)
-  Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 1 October, 16:30)
-  Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation ([Doc. 16240](#))

22. Debate

22.1. Sexual violence against men and boys

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Edmunds CEPURĪTIS (Latvia, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Ega ([Doc. 16250](#))
-  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 2 October, 12:00)
-  Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 1 October, 16:30)
-  Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 16250](#))

23. Joint debate

23.1. Analysis and guidelines to guarantee the right to housing

- Presentation by:
 - o Ms Aurora FLORIDIA (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc ([Doc. 16244](#))
 - o Mr Paul GALLES (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Mig ([Doc ...](#))

23.2. Promoting universal health coverage

- Presentation by:
 - o Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc ([Doc. 16243](#))
- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 2 October, 12:00)
- ⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 1 October, 16:30)
- ⚖️ Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 16244](#))
- ⚖️ Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 16243](#))

Friday 3 October 2025

Sitting No. 36 (10:00-13:00)

24. Debate

24.1. Ensuring Parliamentary Assembly members can travel freely to carry out their work

- Presentation by:
 - o Mr Sergiy VLASENKO (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Rul ([Doc. 16252](#))
- 📖 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 2 October, 19:00)
- ⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 2 October, 10:30)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 16252](#))

25. Free debate

- 📖 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 2 October, 19:00)

26. Progress report (continued)

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

- Addendum:
 - o ([Doc. 16257 Add. 3](#))

27. Closure of the part-session

Appendix 2 – References and transmissions to committees

A. References and transmissions to committees

- *Children without identity in Europe and around the world: a crucial challenge for fundamental rights*, [Doc. 16205](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for consultation*;
- *The European Prisons Charter*, [Doc. 16209](#), motion for a recommendation: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for consultation*;
- *Regular working relationships with Taiwan*, [Doc. 16213](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*;
- *Concerns regarding democratic representation following the 2025 Bundestag elections in Germany*, [Doc. 16216](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*;
- *Applying ethical standards to the members of all delegations participating in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly*, [Doc. 16217](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities *for report*.

B. Extension of references

- *European guidelines to counter social dumping and labour exploitation* (former title: Sustainable European guidelines to counter social dumping and strengthen collective bargaining mechanisms), [Doc. 15823](#), motion for a resolution, reference 4770 of 13 October 2023 – validity: 13 October 2025: extension until 13 April 2026.

Appendix 3 – List of members of the *ad hoc* Committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova (28 September 2025)

Chairperson / Président : Mr / M. Chris SAID (Malta, EPP/CD / Malte, PPE/DC)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-Présidente : Ms / Mme Lucia PLAVÁKOVÁ (Slovak Republic, ALDE / République slovaque, ADLE)

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

Mr / M. Roberto SPERANZA, Italy / Italie

Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal

Mr / M. Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI, San Marino / Saint-Marin*

Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France

Ms / Mme Wanda NOWICKA, Poland / Pologne

Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Norway / Norvège

Mr / M. Christophe CHAILLOU, France

Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye

Ms / Mme Aurora FLORIDIA, Italy / Italie

Mr / M. Antonio GUTIERREZ LIMONES, Spain / Espagne

Ms / Mme Bisera KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJEVSKA, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord

Ms / Mme Luz MARTINEZ SEJO, Spain / Espagne

Mr / M. Roberto SPERANZA, Italy / Italie

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

Mr / M. Richard CARVALHO, Portugal

Ms / Mme Marie-Christine DALLOZ, France

Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU- ȚĂGÂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie

Ms/ Mme Marija PETRUSHEVSKA, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord

Mr / M. Chris SAID, Malta / Malte*

Mr / M. Emanuelis ZINGERIS, Lithuania / Lituanie

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Ms / Mme Boriána ÅBERG, Sweden / Suède

Mr / M. Jan Filip LIBICKI, Poland / Pologne

Mr Giorgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce

Mr / M. Ionuț-Marian STROE, Romania / Roumanie

Ms / Mme Albana VOKSHI, Albania / Albanie

European Conservatives, Patriots & Affiliates (ECPA) / Conservateurs européens, Patriotes et Affiliés (CEPA)

Mr / M. Armen GEVORYAN, Armenia / Arménie

Mr / M. Malte KAUFMANN, Germany / Allemagne

Ms / Mme Cristina Gabriella DUMITRESCU, Romania / Roumanie

Ms / Mme Dumitrina MITREA, Romania / Roumanie

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Mr / M. Simone BILLI, Italy / Italie

Ms / Mme Elisabetta GARDINI, Italy / Italie

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

Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye

Ms / Mme Louise MOREL, France

Ms / Mme Lucia PLAVAKOVA, Slovak Republic / République slovaque*

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Mr / M. Iulian BULAI, Romania / Roumanie

Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie

Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie

Mr / M. Stéphane MAZARS, France

Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France

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

Ms / Mme Nataša SUKIČ, Slovenia / Slovénie

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Mr / M. Vinzenz GLASER, Germany / Allemagne

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

Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse - SOC

Ms / Mme Zanda KALNINA-LUKAŠEVICA, Latvia / Lettonie - EPP/CD (excused)

* Pre-electoral mission / mission préélectorale

Appendix 4 – Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2026

Monday 26 January, 8 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 30 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 6 March, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 20 April, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 24 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 21 May, 3 pm, Monaco	Bureau
Friday 22 May, 9.30 am, Monaco	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 22 June, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 26 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 4 September, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 28 September, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 2 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 26 November, 3 pm, Montenegro	Bureau
Friday 27 November, 9.30 am, Montenegro	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Friday 11 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau