



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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Information documents

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Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1571st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (7 October 2026)

I. Fourth part of the Ordinary Session of 2026 (28 September – 2 October)

A. Election of Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

On 28 September, the Parliamentary Assembly elected Mr Hayk Konjoryan (Armenia) and Ms Tuula Haatainen (Finland) as Vice-Presidents of the Assembly.

B. Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights

On 29 September, the Parliamentary Assembly elected Ms Svjetlana Milišić-Veličkovski as judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

C. Personalities

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

- [Mr Mattias GUYOMAR](#), President of the European Court of Human Rights
- [Mr Alain BERSET](#), Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- [Mr Johann WADEPHUL](#), German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
- [H.E. Mr António José MARTINS SEGURO](#), President of the Portuguese Republic
- [Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEI](#), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Monaco, President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
- [Judge Rosario Salvatore AITALA](#), First Vice-President of the International Criminal Court (in the framework of the debate on “Threats to the International Criminal Court”)
- [H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco](#)
- [Mr Yasushi MASAKI](#), Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (in the framework of the debate on “The role of the OECD in evaluating the impact of artificial intelligence on the future of work”)

Their addresses can be easily accessed by clicking on the link that appears on each personality's name.

D. General Policy Debates

On Tuesday 29 September, the Assembly held a General Policy Debate on “Council of Europe: grounded in core values to meet the challenges ahead”. The debate was opened by Mr Abraham Knut (Germany, EPP/CD) and followed by interventions from the Chairpersons of the Assembly's five political groups and the Chairpersons of Committees. Their speeches are available on the Assembly's [website](#). As a follow-up to this debate, on Friday 2 October, the Bureau of the Assembly decided to seize the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for report on “Council of Europe: grounded in core values to meet the challenges ahead”, for which Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) has already been nominated rapporteur.

On Thursday 1 October, the Assembly held another General Policy Debate on “Europe, the fastest-warming continent: accelerating climate action with young people”, on the basis of a report prepared by Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC), and with the participation of four invited guests: Mr Michael O'Flaherty Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Kamal Kishore Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms Emilie Tamo Kamguia Member of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth, and Mr Benjamin Van Bunderen Robberechts Founder of the NGO Climate Justice for Rosa. Several youth representatives also took part in the debate, alongside members of the Assembly. The debate was organised as part of measures to strengthen the youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly following the adoption of [Resolution 2553 \(2024\)](#).

E. Current affairs debate

On Tuesday 29 September, the Assembly held a current affairs debate on “Solidarity with Ceuta: a test case for Europe”. The debate was opened by Lord Michael German (United Kingdom, ALDE). At its meeting on Friday 2 October, the Bureau of the Assembly decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation to be taken into account in the preparation of the report “Solidarity with Ceuta, a test case for Europe”.

F. Debates under urgent procedure

On Wednesday 30 September, the Assembly held a debate under urgent procedure on “Fake 'elections' in Russia and its destabilising attacks on Europe” (rapporteur: Ms Alicia Kearns, United Kingdom, ECPA). On Friday 2 October, the Bureau of the Assembly decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine”, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Accountability for the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine”.

On Thursday 1 October, the Assembly held a debate under urgent procedure on “Repression and targeted attacks on LGBTI persons and defenders in Türkiye” (rapporteur: Mr Sam Rushworth, United Kingdom, SOC). On Friday 2 October, the Bureau of the Assembly decided to refer the matter 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 obligations and commitments by Türkiye”.

All interventions during the week can be found on the website of the Assembly: <https://pace.coe.int>.

F. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

The fourteenth Václav Havel Human Rights Prize – which honours outstanding civil society action in defence of human rights – has been awarded to [Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh](#). The runners-up for the 2026 Prize were Iranian-American journalist, author and women's rights activist Masih Alinejad and Hungarian human rights lawyer Márta Pardavi, the co-chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee.

G. Media coverage

With a range of VIP guests and strong topics, the Parliamentary Assembly's autumn part-session generated exceptional coverage in traditional media. Some 63 journalists were accredited to attend, and 445 articles have been identified so far relating to items on the agenda and side-events. The greatest press coverage was once again in Ukraine, followed by Portugal.

There was sustained coverage across a wider range of topics than usual, resulting in a high cumulative impact. Generating most interest was the award of the 2026 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, followed by the debate on “Fake 'elections' in Russia and its destabilising attacks on Europe”, PACE's observation of Armenia's elections and the Assembly's proposal for a mechanism to compensate Ukraine for violations found by the European Court of Human rights using frozen Russian assets. Addresses by VIP guests – the President of the Portuguese Republic, German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco – also attracted attention in the countries concerned and sometimes beyond.

On social media, views and impressions continued to climb, with different platforms reflecting a variety of topics according to their audiences. The Assembly's Instagram account generated a new record of 245,000 views from some 23 posts across session week, benefiting for the first time from collaborations with VIP or other guests as well as the main Council of Europe account. Top posts concerned the Václav Havel Prize and H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco's visit, as well as the Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General's session “teaser”.

Facebook saw just under 80,000 views, with the top post being the Assembly's debate on elections in Kosovo*. LinkedIn generated around 26,000 impressions, with the top posts being the Kavala hearing on the margins of

* 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.

the session. The Assembly's YouTube channel saw some 32,000 views in total, the top videos being a MediaBox with Russian analyst Ekaterina Schulmann on what comes after Putin, the round table on fake "elections" in Russia and the Tuesday afternoon sitting, which saw the address by the German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Meanwhile the MediaBox was ever more popular: the team recorded a record total of 82 videos, of which 22 – by rapporteurs, Assembly members or invited guests – appeared on the Assembly's YouTube channel.

H. Adopted texts

Further to debates, the Assembly adopted the following texts:

Recommendations

Recommendation 2311 (2026)	Towards coherent policies on veterans in Europe (Doc. 16473)
Recommendation 2312 (2026)	The need for systemic support to Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities (Doc. 16464)
Recommendation 2313 (2026)	Growing threats to media pluralism and the independence of the media (Doc. 16468)
Recommendation 2314 (2026)	Threats to the International Criminal Court (Doc. 16475)
Recommendation 2315 (2026)	How to ensure the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the Russian Federation, including payment of the compensation awarded (Doc. 16478)
Recommendation 2316 (2026)	Europe, the fastest-warming continent: accelerating climate action with young people (Doc. 16493)

Resolutions

Resolution 2671 (2026)	Towards coherent policies on veterans in Europe (Doc. 16473)
Resolution 2672 (2026)	The need for systemic support to Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities (Doc. 16464)
Resolution 2673 (2026)	The role of diasporas and migrants in developing social cohesion and democratic engagement (Doc. 16476)
Resolution 2674 (2026)	The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Greece (Doc. 16470)
Resolution 2675 (2026)	Growing threats to media pluralism and the independence of the media (Doc. 16468)
Resolution 2676 (2026)	Threats to the International Criminal Court (Doc. 16475)
Resolution 2677 (2026)	Fake 'elections' in Russia and its destabilising attacks on Europe (Doc. 16498)
Resolution 2678 (2026)	How to ensure the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the Russian Federation, including payment of the compensation awarded (Doc. 16478)
Resolution 2679 (2026)	Europe, the fastest-warming continent: accelerating climate action with young people (Doc. 16493)

Resolution 2680 (2026)	The role of the OECD in evaluating the impact of artificial intelligence on the future of work (Doc. 16472)
Resolution 2681 (2026)	Repression and targeted attacks on LGBTI persons and defenders in Türkiye (Doc. 16499)
Resolution 2682 (2026)	Towards a family-friendly Europe: policy recommendations for demographic renewal (Doc. 16477)
Resolution 2683 (2026)	Restructuring and streamlining the Rules of Procedure: modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly (Doc. 16482)

These texts can be found on the website of the Assembly: <https://pace.coe.int>.