

Information documents

SG-AS (2024) 01

16 January 2024

Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1486th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (17 January 2024)

¹ This document covers activities of the Assembly since 13 October 2023 and future activities up to the meeting of the Bureau of 22 January 2024.

I. Main developments between the Assembly's fourth part-session of 2023 and the first part-session of 2024

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

The most important activity which took place during the reporting period was the special event organised in Paris on 15 December 2023 on the situation of children of Ukraine. PACE President, Mr Tiny Kox, gave opening remarks, stressing the need and duty to take action to support the children of Ukraine and their future. The debates were structured in two sessions: the first one focused on the situation of Ukrainian children currently in Council of Europe member states, their access to healthcare and education, and EU protection measures. Participants included Maryna Slobodnichenko, Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Health Protection for International Affairs, and Vasyl Lutsyk, Head of the National Social Service of Ukraine. The second session focused on the situation of Ukrainian children deported or forcibly transferred to the Russian Federation, Belarus, or territories temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. It included statements from Dmytro Lubinets, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Ukrainian Parliament and Viktoriia Litvinova, Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine. The meeting also featured video testimonies and discussions on possible actions to locate and help return deported or forcibly transferred Ukrainian children. PACE members, representatives from Ukrainian authorities, NGOs and international organisations contributed to the discussions, focusing on the need for co-ordinated effort. The Assembly's ad hoc Committee to participate in this event was chaired by Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, EC/DA). On 8 December, Ms Khomenko also participated in the first meeting of the International Coalition of Countries for the Return of Ukrainian Children, representing PACE on behalf of President Tiny Kox.

On 14 November, Mr Davor Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD), the Parliamentary Assembly's rapporteur on the legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, sent a message to the 'core group' of 38 countries willing to establish a special tribunal for the crime of aggression committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, ahead of their meeting on 16 November 2023 in Berlin. In this message, Mr Stier stressed that the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine is an egregious violation of international law and threatens the world order which is based on the prohibition of the use of force laid down in the UN Charter. Mr Stier welcomed the fact that many countries were ready to move forward on the creation of a special tribunal for the crime of aggression and underlined that the Council of Europe could make a substantial contribution to the future tribunal. It could host a diplomatic conference to negotiate a multilateral treaty establishing the tribunal and make available its legal expertise and experience in negotiating international agreements, with the participation of interested non-member states. After adoption of the treaty, it could act as depositary so that no participating state needs to be singled out for this task. And the Council of Europe could also help to generate synergies with compensation mechanisms, including the newly established Register of Damage, and with the European Court of Human Rights.

On 24 October 2023, speaking at the second parliamentary summit of the International Crimea Platform in Prague, PACE President underlined that bringing the occupied parts back as soon as possible to Ukraine, is bringing justice to the citizens of Ukraine, and ensuring that their fundamental human rights and freedoms will be again respected and protected. The President also pointed to the numerous actions taken by PACE to support Ukraine, including its successful push for the creation of a Register of Damage and in due course a compensation fund, its work to create a tribunal to try the Russian Federation for the crime of aggression, and its total condemnation of the illegal annexations of Ukrainian territory.

B. Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit

On 28 November 2023, in Vaduz, the Assembly's Standing Committee held a current affairs debate on "Budget and priorities of the Council of Europe and follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit". The debate was opened by Ms Ingjerd Schou (Norway, EPP/CD), General rapporteur on the budget and the intergovernmental programme, who underlined that it was time to shoulder responsibility to implement the Reykjavik priorities. In her view, it was necessary to re-double efforts to modernise the Organisation, make it more efficient, greener and more responsive to the expectations of our citizens. In addressing parliamentarians during the debate, Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General, Mr Bjørn Berge, underlined that, in line with the Summit declaration, the adopted budget provided for the financial stability of the Organisation and the first real-growth budget in 17 years. In his view, the sentiment and measures agreed in Reykjavik have the potential to halt and reverse aspects of the democratic backsliding that is undermining common European values and standards. On the same day, the Assembly also launched its new website on the follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit, which also includes a timeline with key milestones.

Among the different initiatives aimed at implementing the decisions taken in Reykjavik, it is worth mentioning three key events.

- On 16 November, the German delegation to the PACE organised a conference on “The Future of the Council of Europe after the Fourth Summit”, which gathered around 50 youth representatives from member states of the Council of Europe and Belarus at the German Bundestag. The Youth Space Berlin Conference focused on encouraging the participation of young people in the work of the Council of Europe, as well as strengthening the Council’s youth policies. The event saw, among others, the participation of the President of the German Bundestag, Bärbel Bas, and the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis.
- On 4 December 2023, in Rome, the Assembly’s Monitoring Committee organised a seminar on “Strategies and tools of the Council of Europe to ensure the respect of human rights, rule of law and democracy obligations in the resolution of conflicts”. PACE President Tiny Kox opened the event and urged Council of Europe member states to respect the rulings of the Strasbourg Court, boost the Council of Europe’s “early warning capacity” and develop a more flexible, credible and coherent “toolkit” of measures for putting pressure on states that do not respect their obligations. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani also addressed the event, as well as the Chair of the Assembly’s Monitoring Committee Piero Fassino, the Chair of the Italian Senate’s Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee Stefania Craxi, and the Chair of the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Sub-committee Laura Boldrini.
- Finally, on 11-12 January 2024, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliament of Finland jointly organised the “Helsinki Dialogue event”, where leading representatives of Belarusian democratic forces as well as members of civil society and journalists in exile joined parliamentarians from across Europe to discuss how to build a democratic future for Belarus. The event featured six panel discussions on the current geopolitical context around Belarus, Belarusian national identity, political prisoners, strengthening support for Belarusian democratic forces, electoral matters and the creation of a representative body of the Belarusian people.

II. Meetings of the Bureau (27 November 2023 and 14 December 2023)

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 27 November 2023, in Vaduz:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and held an exchange of views with the Secretary General;
- **Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit:** heard a presentation by the Director of Committees - Human Dignity and Sustainable Development, and took note of the information provided;
- **Standing Committee in Vaduz (28 November 2023):**
 - took note of the requests to hold current affairs debates on:
 - “Spain and rule of law: current situation”, tabled by the EC/DA group, and decided to recommend to the Standing Committee not to hold this debate;
 - “Spiral of violence and humanitarian crisis in the Middle-East: finding a peaceful way out”, tabled by leaders of political groups, decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate and appointed Mr Aleksander POCIEJ (Poland, EPP/CD) as the first speaker;
 - “Budget and priorities of the Council of Europe and follow up to the Reykjavik Summit”, tabled by leaders of political groups, decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate and appointed Ms Ingjerd Schie SCHOU (Norway, EPP/CD) as the first speaker;
 - updated the draft agenda;
- **First part-session of 2024 (Strasbourg, 22-26 January):**
 - agreed to hold the forthcoming part-session along the modalities and according to the schedule presented by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, as laid down in the preliminary draft agenda;
 - decided that the Assembly shall proceed to the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights, and other high-level personalities of the Council of Europe, in accordance with the standard secret voting procedure laid down in the Rules of Procedure (art. 40.11), using ballot papers and boxes;
 - drew-up the preliminary draft agenda;

- **Application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30:** took note of the report by the two eminent lawyers appointed by the Bureau, who, according to established practice, drew up a report for the attention of the Bureau assessing the conformity of the applicant's legal system with Council of Europe standards, and decided to declassify it;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 3, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
- **Elections observation:**
 - Poland: parliamentary elections (15 October 2023): approved the report by the observation mission;
 - Serbia: early parliamentary elections (17 December 2023): took note of the statement by the pre-electoral observation mission and approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee (Appendix 4);
- **The situation of the children of Ukraine (Paris, 15 December 2023):** approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee and appointed Ms Olena KHOMENKO (Ukraine, EC/DA) as Chairperson;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - Committee on Legal Affairs and Human rights: authorised Ms Azadeh ROJHAN (Sweden, SOC) to carry-out a fact-finding visit to Kosovo² in early December 2023 (dates to be confirmed), in her capacity as Rapporteur for opinion on the *Statutory Opinion on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30*;
 - Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination: authorised Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO (Monaco, ALDE) to carry-out a fact-finding visit to Kosovo* in early December 2023 (dates to be confirmed), in her capacity as Rapporteur for opinion on the *Statutory Opinion on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30*;
- **Composition of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:** on the basis of proposals by:
 - the SOC group, nominated Ms Gala VELDHOEN (Netherlands) as a member;
 - the UEL group, nominated Mr Frédéric MATHIEU (France) as a member;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the ad hoc sub-committee to participate in the Helsinki Dialogue of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, to meet in Helsinki on 11-12 January 2024;

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 14 December 2023 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, and held an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Follow-up to the Standing Committee (Vaduz, 27 November 2023):** took note of the information provided by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit:** took note of the information provided by the Director of Committees - Human Dignity and Sustainable Development, as regard the website dedicated to PACE follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit;
- **First part-session of 2024 (Strasbourg, 22-26 January):**
 - took note of the request to hold a debate under the urgent procedure on “The situation of the children of Ukraine” tabled by the leaders of political groups;
 - drew up the draft agenda;

² 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.

- **Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights:** took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and decided to declassify it;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 5, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the Progress report;
- **Elections observation:** took note of the schedule of the elections in 2024 ;
- **Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the 2024 financial year:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Apportionment of the allocation to political groups for 2024:** approved the proposals contained in the document;
- **Parliamentary co-operation activities:** took note of the work plan for 2024;
- **The situation of the children of Ukraine (Paris, 15 December 2023):** approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee to take part in the event (Appendix 6);
- **2024 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the calendar of the 2024 edition of the Prize;
- **2024 Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment:** took note of the calendar of the 2024 edition of the Prize;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised
 - the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media to meet in Copenhagen, on 27-28 May 2024;
 - the ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68) of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to meet in New-York, in March 2024;
 - the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence to meet in Tirana, in June 2024.

III. Standing Committee (28 November 2023)

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 28 November 2023 in Vaduz:

- heard an opening speech by Mr Albert Frick, President of the Landtag
- held an exchange of views with Ms Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport of Liechtenstein, President of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers;
- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of France and Norway;
- approved the changes in the composition of Assembly committees;
- took note of the preliminary draft agenda of the first part-session of the Assembly (22-26 January 2024);
- ratified the references proposed by the Bureau;
- held a current affairs debate on “Budget and priorities of the Council of Europe and follow-up to the Reykjavík Summit” and, in this context, heard a statement by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Bjorn Berge;
- within the framework of the Event on the Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment, held an interactive panel discussion moderated by Ms Mariia Mezentseva, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Ms Bernadette Kubik-Risch, Equal opportunities expert, Liechtenstein; Mr Wilfried Marxer, President of the Association for Human Rights, Liechtenstein; and Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, member of the Selection Panel of the Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland, followed by an exchange of views;
- held a current affairs debate on “Spiral of violence and humanitarian crisis in the Middle East: finding a peaceful way out”;
- took note of the report of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the Observation of the parliamentary elections in Poland (15 October 2023);

- unanimously adopted the following texts on behalf of the Assembly:

Recommendation 2264 (2023) Heritable genome editing in human beings

Resolution 2523 (2023) Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers

- decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris, March 2024 (*meeting to be confirmed*)
 - Vilnius, Lithuania, 24 May 2024.

IV. Prizes

➤ Museum Prize

On **5 December 2023**, in Paris, the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media* held an exchange of views on the *Museum Prize of the Council of Europe 2024* with the participation of Mr Mathieu Viau-Courville, Luxembourg, member of the Jury for the Museum Prize; The 2024 Council of Europe Museum Prize has been awarded to Sybir Memorial Museum (Bialystok, Poland).

➤ Europe Prize

On **6 December 2023**, in Paris the *Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize* discussed ways to improve the visibility of the Europe Prize.

➤ Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment

On **28 November 2023**, in Vaduz, the call for candidatures for the first ever edition of the Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment was officially launched. The opening of the call was marked by a special event organised during the PACE Standing Committee in Vaduz, which saw the participation of the President of the PACE, Mr Tiny Kox, the Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Ms Mariia Mezentseva, Ms Bernadette Kubik-Risch, Equal opportunities expert, Liechtenstein; Mr Wilfried Marxer, President of the Association for Human Rights, Liechtenstein; and Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, member of the Selection Panel of the Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland. The deadline for submitting nominations is 15 February 2024. They should be sent to the Parliamentary Assembly by e-mail: vigdis.prize@coe.int, using the [form](#) available on the [Prize web page](#).

➤ Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

On **16 January 2024**, the Parliamentary Assembly, in partnership with the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation, issued a call for nominations for the 2024 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize.

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

➤ On 15 October 2023, an **ad hoc Committee** of the Assembly observed the **parliamentary elections in Poland**. A pre-electoral mission took place on 26-27 September 2023. The press statement is available [here](#).

➤ On 25-26 October 2023, the **ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons** responsible for carrying out a fact-finding visit to Calais, France, held a visit to Calais to draw the attention of parliamentarians from Council of Europe member states to the humanitarian needs of migrants and asylum seekers in Calais; and to encourage solidarity between France and the United Kingdom to ensure respect for the rights of these individuals and to develop coordinated border management policies based on human rights ([report](#));

➤ On 29 November 2023, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons** participated in the Conference on the Inclusion of Child Migrants and Refugees in and through Sport, organised by the Enlarged

Partial Agreement on Sport. Ms Nigar Arpadarai (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons on the “Social inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons through sport”, intervened on her report’s topic.

➤ On 30 November 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights** held a hearing on the *Sanctions of persons on the “Kara-Murza list”* in the context of a report prepared by Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, (Estonia, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Evgenia Kara-Murza, wife of the Russian opposition activist and Advocacy Coordinator at the Free Russia Foundation” and Mr Bill Browder – Head of Sergei Magnitsky Justice Campaign, United Kingdom (online).

➤ On 1 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights** held a hearing on the *Human Rights Defenders: Whistleblowers* in the context of the mandate of the General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers, Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Sergei Cristo, Whistleblower, Ms Anna Myers, Executive Director of the Whistleblowing International Network (WIN), United Kingdom, and Mr Jean-Philippe Foegle, expert on whistleblowers and researcher and doctoral student in public and European law.

➤ On 4 December 2023, in Rome, the **Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)**:

. held a public hearing on *The strategies and tools of the Council of Europe to ensure the respect of human rights, rule of law and democracy obligations in the resolution of conflicts*, with the participation of Mr Antonio Tajani, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Ms Stefania Craxi, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Italian Senate, Ms Laura Boldrini, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Mr Raffaele Sabato, Judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Italy, Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Mr Mario Giro, Member of the Community of Sant’Egidio in charge of international relations, and Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Chairperson of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly;

. heard an address by Mr Lorenzo Fontana, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

➤ On 4 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**:

. held an exchange of views on *Online education and special education needs of children with disabilities and learning difficulties*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Pavlo Sushko (Ukraine, EC/DA), with the online participation of Ms Judith Hollenweger Haskell, Zürich, Switzerland;

. held an exchange of views on *Propaganda and freedom of speech in Europe*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Tonia Antoniazzi (United Kingdom, SOC) with the participation of Mr Andrey Rikhter, Professor Researcher, Department of Journalism, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava, Slovak Republic; Ms Katarína Klingová, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Democracy and Resilience, GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava, Slovak Republic and Mr Craig Matasick, Team Lead, Information Integrity, Public Governance Directorate, OECD.

. held an exchange of views on *Cultural heritage and climate change*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Andries Gryffroy (Belgium, NR), with the participation of Ms Isabelle Palmi, Director of ICOMOS France;

. held an exchange of views 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 Ms Kristin Hausler, Chairperson of the Committee on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict, International Law Association (ILA).

➤ On 5 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**:

. held an exchange of views on *the Museum Prize of the Council of Europe 2024*, with the participation of Mr Mathieu Viau-Courville, Luxembourg, member of the Jury for the Museum Prize;

. 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 Ms Verity McIntosh, Researcher, Senior lecturer in virtual and extended realities at the University of the West of England, Bristol, and member of the Digital Cultures Research Centre, United Kingdom and Ms Cristina Voinea, Hosted Research Fellow, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, United Kingdom;

. 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 Luigi Melica, Professor of Comparative Public Law, University of Salento, Italy, and Mr Bernard Hilgers, Treasurer of the European Olympic Academies (EOA).

➤ On 6 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:**

. held a hearing on *Analysis and guidelines to guarantee the right to housing and to decent housing*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC), with the participation of Mr Samir Kulenovic, Senior Technical Advisor for Housing and Urban Development, Council of Europe Development Bank ;

. held a hearing 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 Helge Seland, Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe, Chair of the GR-H (Rapporteur Group on Human Rights).

➤ On 7 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:**

. held a hearing on *Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women in Europe*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Ilaria Todde, Advocacy and Research Director, EL*C (Eurocentralasian Lesbian* Community), Belgium, Ms Yasemin Öz, Lawyer, Co-founder of Kaos gl, Türkiye, Ms Maram Kane, lesbian activist and artist, France, and Ms Maud Royer, President of the Association Toutes des femmes, France;

. held an exchange of views on *Protecting women human rights defenders and people who defend women's rights in Europe*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), with the participation of Ms Naveen Hashim, Researcher on the role of women in the economic development of Afghanistan and women's rights activist.

➤ On 7 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance:**

. held an exchange of views on *Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Arta Bilalli Zendeli (North Macedonia, SOC), with the participation of Ms Nazila Ghanea, United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (*online*);

. heard a presentation on *The theme of migration and asylum in the election campaign and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants* by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and author of the draft resolution adopted by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons.

➤ On 8 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:**

. 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 Milica Kolaković-Bojović, PhD, Expert for the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research of Belgrade, Serbia;

. held an exchange of views on *Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures* in the context of a report prepared by Ms Stephanie Krisper (Austria, ALDE), with the participation of Mr Adriano Silvestri, Head of Migration and Asylum Sector, Justice, Digital and Migration Unit, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (*online*), and with Mr Hugh Chetwynd, Head of Division, Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), Council of Europe.

➤ On 8 December 2023, in Paris, the **Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons** held an exchange of views on *Preventing and fighting the smuggling of migrants: overview of the Council of Europe's approach and ongoing work* with the participation of Ms Leyla Kayacik, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe, and Mr Clément Bailly, Secretariat of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), Council of Europe.

- On 12-13 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**:
 - . held two separate hearings on *Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), with the participation of Ambassador Haim Assaraf, Head of the Permanent Mission of Israel to Multilateral Organizations in France, and with Ambassador Hala Abou Hassira, Head of the Mission of Palestine to France, respectively;
 - . held a hearing on *The role of sanctions as a protective measure for human rights and democracy*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Yelysaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), with the participation of Ms Nataliia Shapoval, Chairperson of the Kyiv School of Economics Institute (online), Mr Benjamin Hilgenstock, Senior Economist of the Kyiv School of Economics Institute, and Mr Craig Kennedy, Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University (online).
- On 13 December 2023, in Paris, the **Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs** held an exchange of views on *Respect for the rule of law and fight against corruption within the Council of Europe*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC), with the participation of Mr Robert Stryk, Director, Directorate of Internal Oversight (DIO) of the Council of Europe.
- The **Presidential Committee** of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) as well as Chairs of Political Affairs, Legal and Migration Committees met, on 14 December 2023 in Paris, with the representatives of the Russian democratic opposition forces who share Council of Europe values, fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and condemn Russia's war of aggression.

The meeting was held in the context the recently established Platform for Dialogue and aimed to discuss how to help the Russian democratic forces to develop proposals and generate ideas for the future democratic transformation of Russia in such a way that the country no longer poses a threat to its neighbours and to international law, as well as to its citizens. It also addressed the need to empower the Russian democratic forces to meaningfully contribute to the efforts to end the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

The Russian Democratic forces were represented by

- Mr Aleksandr Cherkasov, Memorial
 - Ms Olga Galkina, Head of the Association of the Independent Local Councillors
 - Mr Dmitriy Gudkov, Russian Anti-War Committee
 - Mr Gennady Gudkov, Free Russia Forum
 - Ms Evgenia Kara-Murza, Free Russia Foundation
 - Mr Mikhail Kasyanov, Former Prime Minister of Russia, leader of People's Freedom Party (PARNAS)
 - Mr Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Russian Anti-War Committee, Russian Action Committee
 - Mr Maxim Kurnikov, Head of the 'Ekho' online media,
 - Mr Kirill Martynov, Editor in chief of the Novaya Gazeta Europe
 - Ms Karinna Moskalenko, Lawyer, founder of the Center for International Protection
 - Mr Vadim Prokhorov, Lawyer of the Russian opposition politician Vladimir Kara-Murza
 - Ms Anastasia Shevchenko, Political activist, member of the global anti-war movement of Russia
 - Mr Ivan Tyutrin, Free Russia Foundation, Russian Action Committee
- On 15 December 2023, members of the **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on Children of Ukraine** met in Paris for an event jointly organised by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable development and the inter-parliamentary cooperation Division. Members of the ad hoc Committee heard a statement by Mr Tiny Kox, the President of the Assembly, and held exchanges of views, as follows:
 1. **on the situation of Ukrainian children who are currently in Council of Europe member States (including Ukraine):**
 - *on access to healthcare*, with the participation of Ms Maryna Slobodnichenko, Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Health Protection for International Affairs, and Ms Liene Dambina, Chair of the Board of the Children's Hospital Foundation, Latvia;
 - *on access to education*, with the participation of Mr Serhii Babak, Chair of the Committee on Education, Science and Innovation, Ukrainian Parliament, Mr Vasyl Lutsyk, Head of the National Social Service of Ukraine, and Mr Witold Hebanowski, President of the Inna Przestrzeń Foundation, Poland; and

- on *European Union protection measures for children of Ukraine*, with the participation of Ms Anna Schmidt, Policy Officer, European Commission | DG Migration and Home Affairs.
- 2. **on the situation of Ukrainian children deported or forcibly transferred to the Russian Federation, Belarus or territories temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation**
 - on *possible action to locate and help return deported or forcibly transferred Ukrainian children*: with the participation of Mr Dmytro Lubinets, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights; and with Mr Paulo Pisco, PACE Rapporteur on “Deportations and forcible transfers of Ukrainian children and other civilians to the Russian Federation or to temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories: create conditions for their safe return, stop these crimes and punish the perpetrators”;
 - *watched* the documentary on BFM TV “Russia: Ukraine’s stolen children” and heard the testimony of Ms Philomène Remy, Special Correspondent, and of the documentary on ITV “Ukraine’s stolen children” and heard the testimony of its filmmaker Ms Shahida Tulaganova;
 - on *specific initiatives for the return of Ukrainian children*: with the participation of Ms Viktoriia Litvinova, Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine, Ms Darya Kasyanova, Ukrainian Child Rights Network, SOS Children’s Villages Ukraine, and Ms Kateryna Rashevskya, representative of the Ukrainian NGO Regional Centre for Human Rights;

The **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on Children of Ukraine** also heard a presentation (in camera) of the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) Bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) by Mr Dušan Vujašanin, Head of the CTA Bureau, and Ms Mariana Alcoforado, ICRC Regional Child Protection Advisor;

➤ On 17 December 2023, an **ad hoc Committee of the Assembly** observed the **early parliamentary elections in Serbia**. A pre-electoral mission took place on 23-24 November 2023. The press statement is available [here](#).

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

➤ **Statutory Opinion on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30**

Ms Dora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Kosovo* on **1-3 November 2023**.

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

Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC) and **Ms Borianna Åberg** (Sweden, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Armenia on **6-8 November 2023**.

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

Ms Lise Christoffersen (Norway, SOC), co-rapporteur of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan on **20-21 November 2023**.

➤ **Detention of the ‘socially maladjusted’**

Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Portugal on **20-22 November 2023**.

➤ **Call for Famagusta’s return to its lawful inhabitants**

Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Greece on **29 November 2023**.

* 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.

- **Statutory Opinion on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30**

Ms Azadeh Rojhan, (Sweden, SOC), rapporteur for opinion for *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Kosovo* on **4-5 December 2023**.

Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), rapporteur for opinion of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination* visited Kosovo* on **3-6 December 2023**.

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

- ***Immigration, one of the answers to Europe's demographic aging***

In November 2023, **Ms Kate Osamor (United Kingdom, SOC)**, rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons*, carried out online meetings with Ms Pip Cannons The Somerset Micro-enterprise programme, Community Catalysts CIC, United Kingdom, Ms Costanza Raguso, Homefull Centre, Italy, Ms Tinna Harling, Cooperative Egnahemsfabriken), Co-housing with newly arrived refugees, young and elderly, Sweden, Ms Dragana Curovic, The Sällbo Project, co-housing, Sweden), Mr Mario González Somoano, Asociación Pueblos Con Futuro, matching depopulated areas with migrants in search of a new life in rural Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, Ms Margaret Kernan and Ms Giulia Cortellesi, "TOY for Inclusion", the Netherlands, and Ms Gabriella Debora Giorgione and Mr Angelo Moretti, Piccoli Comuni del Welcome, Italy.

- ***Towards Council of Europe strategies against the climate crisis for healthy seas and oceans***

Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*, carried out an online meeting with representatives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on **20 November 2023**.

- ***Protecting human rights in sport: obligations and shared responsibilities:***

Mr Kim Valentin, (Denmark, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, carried out an online meeting with Ms Caroline Muller, Public Affairs Manager at the International Olympic Committee, Mr Frank Grothaus, Public Affairs Manager at the International Olympic Committee and Ms Kirsty Burrows, Head of the Safe Sport Unit at the International Olympic Committee, to discuss safe sport developments at IOC level on **22 November 2023**.

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

Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) and **Ms Deborah Bergamini** (Italy, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out an online meeting with Ms Mariya Gabriel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, on **23 November 2023**.

VIII. Seminars and conferences organised by the Assembly

- **20 October 2023, Skopje:** the *Interparliamentary Co-operation and Project Support Division*, in cooperation with the ad hoc Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), and the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, organised a *Conference on interparliamentary dialogue to further promote the European integration of the Western Balkans*. This regional event provided parliamentarians from the region with a broad platform for co-operation and dialogue to discuss challenges they face and good practices towards European integration.

- **25-27 October 2023, Madrid:** the *Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division* organised a *study visit by the group on the evaluation of law 103.13 on violence against women of the Chamber of Representatives to the Parliament and other Spanish institutions active in combating violence against women* in the framework of the joint programme with the European Union *Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco*. The aim of the event was both to present the Spanish experience in combating violence against women and to enable participants to exchange views on the work to be done to improve the national law on violence against women, law n° 103.13, and its implementation.

- **7 December 2023, Rabat** : the *Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division* organised a round table on "*Violence against women and girls: implementation and evaluation of law 103-13*" to mark the 16 days of activism against violence against women in the framework of the joint programme with the European Union *Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco*. The aim of this event was to enable members of the Gender Morocco thematic group to exchange views with members of the Moroccan Parliament on the implementation and evaluation of law n°103-13 and, more generally, on combating violence against women and girls.
- **11-12 December 2023, London**: the *Interparliamentary Cooperation and Project Support Division* organised a "*training session at the British Parliament on participatory democracy*" in the framework of the joint programme with the European Union "*Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco*". The aim of the event was to familiarise participants with the British Parliament's system of petitions and motions, and to exchange views with parliamentarians and parliamentary staff working on these issues, with a view to identifying practices that could be replicated in Morocco.
- **11-12 January 2024, Helsinki**: the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* organised in Helsinki, in co-operation with the Parliament of Finland, a seminar on *Helsinki Dialogue - A democratic future for Belarus*. Members of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons* also participated in this seminar.

IX. Relations with the Committee of Ministers

- **17-18 October 2023, Strasbourg**: Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur on *Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society* of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, participated in the 4th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (MSI-SLP).
- **30 November 2023, Strasbourg**: Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur on *Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society* of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, intervened online at the 24th meeting of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI).
- **On 6 December 2023, Paris**, Mr Helge Seland, Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe, Chair of the GR-H (Rapporteur Group on Human Rights), participated in a hearing on *Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment with the Reykjavik process*, organised by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

X. Cooperation with the Venice Commission

- Legal advice was provided to the Assembly delegation by representatives of the Venice Commission for the observation of the parliamentary elections in **Poland (15 October 2023)**, for the observation of the early parliamentary elections in **Serbia (17 December 2023)**.
- **3 November 2023, Barcelona, Spain**: the Assembly was represented in the "4th Scientific Electoral Experts Debates – Stability of electoral law" organised inter alia by the Venice Commission.
- **On 4 December 2023, in Rome**, the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) agreed to request the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) for an opinion on the legislative package on "the defence of national sovereignty" in Hungary.
- **6-7 December 2023, in Cologne, Germany**: the Assembly ad hoc committee (elections) participated in the Conference on "Money and Democracy: an uneasy relationship" organised inter alia by the Venice Commission.
- **On 14 December 2023, in Venice, Italy**: Ms Valentina Martinez Ferro and Mr Davor Stier participated in the 79th Meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections.
- **On 15-16 December 2023, in Venice, Italy**, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights' representative, Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, (Cyprus, SOC) attended the 137th Plenary session of the Venice Commission.
- **On 16 December 2023, in Venice, Italy**, the Presidential Committee and the Enlarged Bureau of the Venice Committee held their traditional annual coordination meeting.

XI. External relations

- Relations with the European Parliament and other European Union institutions

A PACE delegation observed the early Parliamentary elections in Serbia on 17 December 2023 as part of an International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) together with delegations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), the European Parliament (EP) and ODIHR.

- Relations with other international partners

➤ A PACE delegation observed the parliamentary elections in Poland on **15 October 2023** as part of an International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) together with a delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and the Limited Election Observation Mission of ODIHR.

➤ **12 December 2023, Warsaw:** Mr Andi-Lucian Cristea (Romania, SOC), Rapporteur on *Risks and opportunities of the Metaverse of the* Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, participated in a panel discussion on the potential of the Metaverse for Central and Eastern Europe at CEE Innovation Day, hosted by META.

➤ On **16-18 November 2023**, the President of the Assembly travelled to **Washington, DC (USA)**, where he held meetings with the Secretary General and other high officials of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and had discussions on the bilateral co-operation between the Assembly and the Americas in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

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

- . **13 October 2023, Strasbourg:** *Bureau meeting*
- . **27 November 2023, Vaduz:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **27 November 2023, Vaduz:** *Bureau meeting*
- . **28 November 2023, Vaduz:** *Standing Committee*
- . **30 November (afternoon) and 1 December 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*
- . **4-5 December 2023, Rome:** *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*
- . **4-5 December 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*
- . **6 December 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*
- . **6 December 2023, Paris:** *Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize*
- . **7 December 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*
- . **7 December 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and No Hate Parliamentary Alliance*
- . **8 December 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*
- . **12 and 13 December 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
- . **13 December 2023, Paris:** *Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*
- . **13 December 2023, Paris:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **14 December 2023, Paris:** *Bureau meeting*



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

<https://pace.coe.int>



Doc. 15884 prov1
10 January 2024

First part of the 2024 Ordinary Session (22-26 January 2024)

Draft agenda¹

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

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 14 December 2023. Updated, on 10 January 2024, under the authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly, after discussions in the Presidential Committee, to reflect the modifications that will be presented 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)

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

Joint Committee

Thursday: 13:00-14:00

Bureau of the Assembly

Monday: 08:00-09:30

Friday: 08:30-10:00

Committees

Monday: 18:00-19:30

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: 09:30-11:45

Monday: 13:30-15:15

Wednesday: 08:30-10:30

Monday 22 January 2024

Sitting No. 1 (12:00-13:00)

1. Opening of the part-session

- 1.1. Examination of the credentials
- 1.2. Election of the President of the Assembly
- 1.3. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly
- 1.4. Appointment of members of committees
- 1.5. Request(s) for current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure
 - 1.5.1. Urgent procedure debate: "Situation of the children of Ukraine"
- 1.6. Adoption of the agenda
- 1.7. Approval of the minutes of the Standing Committee (Vaduz, 28 November 2023)

Sitting No. 2 (15:30-17:30)

2. Debate

- 2.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Tiny KOX (Netherlands, UEL), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)
- 2.2. Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Serbia (17 December 2023)
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)
 -  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 12:00)

3. Address

- 3.1. Annual activity report 2023 by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Ms Dunja MIJATOVIĆ, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
 -  Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 12:00)

Tuesday 23 January 2024

Sitting No. 3 (14:30-20:00)

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

4.1. Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights


- ☐ List of candidates:
 - o (Doc. 15870), Doc. 15885 Add. 2 rev)

4.2. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

- ☐ Lists of candidates:
 - o Bulgaria (Doc. 15867 rev)
 - o Lithuania (Doc. 15877)
 - o Luxembourg (Doc. 15876)


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

5.1. His Excellency Mr Nikos CHRISTODOULIDES, President of the Republic of Cyprus

-  Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 16:30)




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

6.1. His Excellency Mr Jakov MILATOVIĆ, President of Montenegro

-  Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 16:30)


7. Debate

7.1. Recent developments in the Middle East: Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel and Israel's response

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Piero FASSINO (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15890)
-  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 16:30)
-  Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 19 January, 14:30)
-  Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15890)

8. Debate

8.1. The theme of migration and asylum in election campaigns and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ (Switzerland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15832)
 - o Mr Tural GANJALIYEV (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Pol (Doc. 15888)
-  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 16:30)
-  Amendments (deadline for tabling: Friday 19 January, 14:30)
-  Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15832)


Sitting No. 4 (14:30-20:00)

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

- 9.1. Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- 9.2. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights


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

- 10.1. Mr Daniel RISCH, Prime Minister of Liechtenstein


 Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 23 January, 19:00)

11. Debate


- 11.1. Globalisation in times of crisis and war: the role of the OECD since the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine


 Presentation by:


- o Mr Alexis TSIPRAS (Greece, UEL), Rapporteur AS/Pol : Mr George KATROUGALOS (Greece, UEL) ([Doc. 15868](#))
- o Ms Liliana TANGUY (France, ALDE), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Soc ([Doc. 15887](#))

 Statement by:

- o Mr Mathias CORMANN, Secretary-General of the OECD


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 23 January, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 22 January, 14:30)


 Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 15868](#))


12. Debate


- 12.1. Allegations of systemic torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in places of detention in Europe

 Presentation by:

- o Mr Constantinos EFSTATHIOU (Cyprus, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Jur ([Doc. 15880](#))

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 23 January, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 22 January, 14:30)

 Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 15880](#))

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

Thursday 25 January 2024

Sitting No. 5 (10:00-12:30)


14. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure


15. Address (11:30-12:30)

15.1. 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: Wednesday 24 January, 19:00)

 Written questions (deadline for tabling: Monday 15 January, 12:00)


Sitting No. 6 (15:30-20:00)

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

16.1. Communication from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ

 Questions (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 11:30)

17. Debate


17.1. A democratic future for Belarus


☐ Presentation by:


- o Mr Kimmo KILJUNEN (Finland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15892)
- o Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Jur

☐ Statement by:

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

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 11:30)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 23 January, 15:30)

 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15892)

18. Joint debate

18.1. Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society


☐ Presentation by:


- o Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 15869)
- o Mr Davor Ivo STIER (Croatia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Jur (Doc. 15879)


18.2. Guaranteeing media freedom and the safety of journalists: an obligation of member States


☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Mogens JENSEN (Denmark, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 15891)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 11:30)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 23 January, 15:30)

 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15869)

 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15891)

Friday 26 January 2024

Sitting No. 7 (10:30-13:00)

19. Debate

19.1. Child abuse in institutions in Europe

□ Presentation by:

- o Mr Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ (Switzerland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc ([Doc. 15889](#))
- o Mr Constantinos EFSTATHIOU (Cyprus, SOC), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Jur ([Doc. ...](#))

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 19:00)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 24 January, 10:30)

🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation ([Doc. 15889](#))

20. Debate

20.1. The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2023)

□ Presentation by:

- o Mr Piero FASSINO (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Mon ([Doc. 15893](#))

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 19:00)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 24 January, 10:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 15893](#))

21. Progress report (continued)

22. Constitution of the Standing Committee

23. Closure of the part-session

Appendix 2 – Agenda of the Standing Committee meeting (28 November 2023, Vaduz)

AS/Per (2023) OJ 04 rev4
27 November 2023

Standing Committee

Revised draft agenda

of the meeting to be held

in Vaduz on Tuesday 28 November 2023 from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 14:30 to 17:30

(Venue: Vaduzer-Saal, Main Hall, Giessenstrasse 3, 9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein)

1. **Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly**
2. **Opening speech by Mr Albert Frick, President of the Landtag**
3. **Exchange of views with Ms Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport of Liechtenstein**

CM/Inf (2023) 25
CM/Inf (2023) 26
4. **Examination of new credentials**

Doc. 15862
5. **Modifications in the composition of committees**

Commissions (2023) 08
Commissions (2023) 08 Add. rev
6. **(Possibly) Request for a current affairs debate (under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure)**

Spain and the rule of law: current situation
Budget and priorities of the Council of Europe and follow-up to the Reykjavík Summit
Spiral of violence and humanitarian crisis in the Middle East: finding a peaceful way out
7. **Agenda**

AS/Per (2023) OJ 04 rev4

Adoption of the revised draft agenda
8. **First part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (22-26 January 2024)**

AS/Bur (2023) 59

Consideration of the preliminary draft agenda

**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: Sunday 26 November 2023 at 10:00**

9. References to committees

AS/Per (2023) 13

Consideration of the proposals submitted by the Bureau of the Assembly

10. (Possibly) Current affairs debate

Budget and priorities of the Council of Europe and follow-up to the Reykjavík Summit

11. Event on the Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment

Interactive panel discussion moderated by **Ms Mariia Mezentseva**, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of:

- **Mr Tiny Kox**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Ms Bernadette Kubik-Risch**, Equal opportunities expert, Liechtenstein
- **Mr Wilfried Marxer**, President of the Association for Human Rights, Liechtenstein
- **Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir**, member of the Selection Panel of the Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland

Exchange of views with members of the Assembly

At 14:30

12. (Possibly) Current affairs debate

Spiral of violence and humanitarian crisis in the Middle East: finding a peaceful way out

13. Observation of elections

Observation of the parliamentary elections in Poland (15 October 2023)

Chairperson of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Ms Mireille Clapot (France, ALDE)

Doc. 15861

Debate

14. Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Heritable genome editing in human beings

Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:
Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC)

Doc. 15855

Debate

Vote on a draft recommendation

15. Equality and Non-Discrimination

Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers

Rapporteur of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:
Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE)

Doc. 15856

Debate

Vote on a draft resolution

16. Other business

17. Next meetings

Paris, March 2024 (*meeting to be confirmed*)
Vilnius, Lithuania, 24 May 2024

Appendix 3 – References and transmissions to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

- Responding to the violent attacks in the North of Kosovo³, Doc. 15845: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for consultation*
- Tools to prevent and address transnational repression, Doc. 15847: transmission to Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information* [to be taken into account in the follow-up to the report on “Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights”]
- Strengthening democracy through participatory and deliberative processes, Doc. 15848: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

B. REQUEST FROM A COMMITTEE

- Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (letter of 23 October 2023) : The Council of Europe Development Bank: implementing the Reykjavík Declaration, Bureau decision: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

³ 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.

Appendix 4 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the early parliamentary elections in Serbia (17 December 2023)

Chairperson / Président: Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH

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

Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche*
Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse
Mr / M. Givi MIKANADZE, Georgia / Géorgie
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye
Mr / M. Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES, Spain / Espagne
Ms / Mme Gökçe GÖKÇEN, Türkiye

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

Ms / Mme Jorida TABAKU, Albania / Albanie
Mr / M. Pauli AALTO-SETÄLÄ, Finland / Finlande
Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania / Roumanie*
Mr / M. Andreas NIKOLAKOPOULOS, Greece / Grèce
Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce**

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

Ms / Mme Tamara VONTA, Slovenia / Slovénie*
Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye
Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse
Mr / M. Sjoerd WARMERDAM, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France (EPP/CD's seat)

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Dean PREMIK, Slovenia / Slovénie
Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN, Switzerland / Suisse

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

Mr / M. José María SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA, Spain / Espagne
Mr / M. Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne
ZZ

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

Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL, Spain / Espagne*

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Antón GÓMEZ-REINO, Spain / Espagne
Ms / Mme Sevilay ÇELENK ÖZEN, Türkiye

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

Mr / M. Axel SCHÄFER, SOC / Germany / Allemagne

Venice Commission / Commission de Venise

Mr / M. Óscar SÁNCHEZ MUÑOZ, Substitute member, Spain / member suppléant, Espagne
Mr / M. Michael JANSSEN, Administrator, Venice Commission / Administrateur, Commission de Venise

* members of the pre-election delegation / membres de la délégation préélectorale

**awaiting non-conflict of interest declaration / en attente de la déclaration de non-conflit d'intérêt

Appendix 5 – References and transmissions to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy, Doc. 15846, Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*
2. The need to investigate politically motivated persecution in Azerbaijan, Doc. 15852, Motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan”* and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan”*
3. Elections in times of crisis, Doc. 15866, Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*
4. The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Greece, Terms of reference of the Committee: reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for report*
5. The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Spain, Terms of reference of the Committee: reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for report*
6. The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Sweden, Terms of reference of the Committee: reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for report*

B. MODIFICATION OF A REFERENCE

1. Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine, Doc. 15732, Motion for a resolution Reference 4735: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*

C. REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF REFERENCES

1. Legal aspects of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights, Doc. 15014, Reference 4488 of 27 January 2020 – validity: 27 January 2024: extension until 30 June 2024.
2. The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by the Netherlands, Reference 4569 of 19 March 2021 – validity: 19 March 2024: extension until 19 March 2025.
3. Respect for the rule of law and fight against corruption within the Council of Europe, Doc. 15195, Reference 4556 of 25 January 2021 – validity: 31 December 2023: extension until 31 December 2024.

Appendix 6 – Ad Hoc Committee to participate in a PACE cooperation event on “The situation of the children of Ukraine” (Paris, 15 December 2023)

Chairperson / Présidente : Ms / Mme Olena KHOMENKO (Ukraine, EC/DA / Ukraine, CE/AD)

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development / *Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable*

Ms / Mme Laryza BILOZIR (Ukraine, ALDE / Ukraine, ADLE)
Ms / Mme Sena Nur ÇELİK (Türkiye, NR / Türkiye, NI)
Mr / M. Murat Cahid CINGI (Türkiye, NR / Türkiye, NI)
Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN (Switzerland, ALDE / Suisse, ADLE)
Ms / Mme Olena KHOMENKO (Ukraine, EC/DA / Ukraine, CE/AD)
Ms / Mme Evhenia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE / Ukraine, ADLE)
Ms / Mme Carmen LEYTE (Spain, EPP/DC / Espagne, PPE/DC)
Ms / Mme Luz MARTINEZ SEIJO (Spain, SOC / Espagne, SOC)
Mr / M. Alain MILON (France, EPP/CD / France, PPE/DC)
Mr / M. Simon MOUTQUIN (Belgium, SOC / Belgique, SOC)
Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS (Greece, EPP/CD / Grèce, PPE/DC)
Ms / Mme Maria SYRENGELA (Greece, EPP/CD / Grèce, PPE/DC)

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons / *Commission des migrations, des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées*

Ms / Mme Nerea AHEDO (Spain, ALDE / Espagne, ADLE)
Ms / Mme Aysu BANOĞLU (Türkiye, SOC)
Mr / M. Paul GAVAN (Ireland, UEL / Irlande, GUE)
Ms / Mme Meryem GÖKA (Türkiye, NR / Türkiye, NI)
Lord Leslie GRIFFITHS (United Kingdom, SOC / Royaume-Uni, SOC)
Mr / M. Konur Alp KOÇAK (Türkiye, NR / Türkiye, NI)
Ms / Mme Ada MARRA (Switzerland, SOC / Suisse, SOC)
Ms / Mme Mariia MEZENTSEVA (Ukraine, EPP/CD / Ukraine, PPE/DC)
Ms / Mme Ester MIELI (Italy, EC/DA / Italie, CE/AD)
Ms / Mme Esther PEÑA (Spain, SOC / Espagne, SOC)
Mr / M. Paulo PISCO (Portugal, SOC)
Mr / M. Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS (Greece, EPP/CD / Grèce, PPE/DC)
Lord Simon RUSSELL (United Kingdom, EC/DA / Royaume-Uni, CE/AD)
Ms / Mme Domenica SPINELLI (Italy, EC/DA / Italie, CE/AD)
Mr / M. Ionuț-Marian STROE (Romania, EPP/CD / Roumanie, PPE/DC)
Ms / Mme Khatia TSILOSANI (Georgia, SOC / Géorgie, SOC)
Ms / Mme Pelin YILIK (Türkiye, NR / Türkiye, NI)
Ms / Mme Sandra ZAMPA (Italy, SOC / Italie, SOC)

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media / *Commission de la culture, de la science, de l'éducation et des médias*

Mr / M. Pauli AALTO-SETÄLÄ (Finland, EPP/CD / Finlande, PPE/DC)
Mr / M. Rino Roland Rino BÜCHEL (Switzerland, ALDE / Suisse, ADLE)
Lord George FOULKES (United Kingdom, SOC / Royaume-Uni, SOC)
Mr / M. Claude KERN (France, ALDE / France, ADLE)
Ms / Mme Mirosława NYKIEL (Poland, EPP/CD / Pologne, EPP/CD)
Ms / Mme Fiona O'LOUGHLIN (Ireland, ALDE / Irlande, ADLE)
Mr / M. Pavlo SUSHKO (Ukraine EC/DA / Ukraine, CE/AD)
Mr / M. Birgir THÓRARINSSON (Iceland EPP/CD / Islande, PPE/DC)

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / *Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme*

Mr / M. Pablo HISPAN (Spain, EPP/CD / Espagne, PPE/DC)
Ms / Mme Anna-Kristiina MIKKONEN (Finland, SOC / Finlande, SOC)
Ms / Mme Susana SUMELZO (Spain, SOC / Espagne, SOC)

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy / *Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie*

Ms / Mme Elena BONETTI (Italy, ALDE / Italie, ADLE)
Mr / M. Bjarni JÓNSSON (Island, ALDE / Islande, ADLE)
Ms / Mme Zanda KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA (Latvia, EPP/CD / Lettonie, PPE/DC)
Mr / M. Gonzalo ROBLES (Spain, EPP/CD / Espagne, PPE/DC)
Mr / M. Yıldırım Tuğrul TÜRKEŞ ((Türkiye, NR / Türkiye, NI)
Ms / Mme Oleksandra USTINOVA (Ukraine, ALDE / Ukraine, ADLE)