



## Information documents

SG-AS (2024) 05

18 June 2024

---

### **Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1502<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies<sup>1</sup> (19 June 2024)**

---

---

<sup>1</sup> This document covers activities of the Assembly since the meeting of the Bureau of 19 April 2024 up to the meeting of the Bureau of 24 June 2024.

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

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

On 13 June 2024, an Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly travelled to Geneva to meet several international organisations (UNICEF, UNCHR, OHCHR) to discuss the situation of refugee, displaced and deported children of Ukraine. On this occasion, the President of the Assembly had a bilateral meeting with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This visit took place in the framework of the follow-up to Resolution 2529 (2024) on "The situation of the children of Ukraine" in which the Parliamentary Assembly reiterated its condemnation of the full-scale war of aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the massive violations of the rights of the children of Ukraine, who are particularly vulnerable victims of this war. In this regard, the Assembly expressed its commitment to continuing its role as a facilitator to support the Ukrainian authorities and various international organisations in determining the most rapid means to identify and facilitate an effective search for children, with access to as much information as possible about their identity and the conditions of their deportation or forcible transfer by the Russian Federation. The situation of children of Ukraine remains a priority for the Parliamentary Assembly. A Parliamentary network on this issue will be launched during the 3rd part session, on Thursday 27 June, 2024.

On 11-12 June 2024, PACE President Theodoros Rousopoulos participated in Berlin in the Ukraine Recovery 2024 Conference, organised under the theme: "United for defence, united for recovery, stronger together". The conference followed an annual series of high-level political events dedicated to the rapid recovery and long-term reconstruction of Ukraine since the start of Russia's large-scale war of aggression against Ukraine.

On 24 May, in Vilnius, in the margin of the Assembly's Standing Committee meeting, PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division, in collaboration with the Lithuanian Delegation to PACE, organised a hearing focused on sanctions against the Russian Federation and companies aiding in their evasion. The event aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the existing sanctions against the Russian Federation and to analyse their impact and effectiveness. It also considered effective mechanisms to monitor compliance with sanctions and prevent their circumvention. Furthermore, the discussion emphasised the role of parliaments in ensuring that sanctions are properly implemented and achieve their intended objectives.

### **B. Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit**

On 6-7 June 2024, the Assembly's Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, in co-operation with the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, organised the conference "The Luxembourg solutions" aimed at exploring ways that national parliaments can help to address the challenges faced by Belarusians in exile – whether practical support on issues such as avoiding reprisals and entry and residence procedures, or by helping to preserve Belarusian cultural identity and education outside the country. It was a concrete follow-up to an Assembly resolution on this topic adopted a year ago, based on a report by Paul Galles (Luxembourg, EPP/CD). The event brought together parliamentarians, including the President of the Assembly, with leading figures from Belarus's democratic forces – including leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya – and representatives of Belarusian civil society, media and academia.

On 17 May 2024, on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), PACE General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people, called to act urgently to guarantee equal rights, freedom and justice for all. In her statement, she stressed that despite significant progress in recent years, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people across Europe still do not feel completely fully safe. Physical attacks, hate speech and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly have increased. These rights are not yet ring-fenced everywhere at the legislative level and equality has not yet been achieved. In this context, she called to make equal rights, freedom and justice for all a reality, starting with making it a political priority in all parliaments.

On 30 April 2024, as part of the project "Support for the development of the role of Parliament in the consolidation of democracy in Morocco 2020-2024", financed by the European Union and

implemented by the Council of Europe, the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco and PACE organised a seminar on the theme “Migration and climate change: what relationship?”. Discussions focused in particular on the link between migration and sustainable development, as well as the integration of migrants and the preservation of skills and talents. The speeches provided an insight into the scale of the phenomenon in Morocco and Europe and provided food for thought on how to respond to the current and future challenges posed by climate change.

## **II. Meeting of the Bureau (23 May 2024)**

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Thursday 23 May 2024, in Vilnius:

– **Election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** interviewed (in alphabetical order) Mr Alain Berset, Mr Didier Reynders and Mr Indrek Saar, candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe (*in camera*);

– **Communication:** took note of the communications by the President of the Parliamentary 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;

– **Meeting of the Standing Committee in Vilnius (24 May 2024):**

○ request for a debate under urgent procedure: took note of the request to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *The 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe: how to ensure the participation of all Europeans in the future of our Organisation?*, tabled by Mr Oleksii Goncharenko (Ukraine, EC/DA) and 21 members of the Assembly; decided to transform this request into a current affairs debate and to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate; appointed Ms Ingjerd Schie Schou (Norway, EPP/CD) as the first speaker;

○ request for a current affairs debate: took note of the request by the leaders of the political groups to hold a current affairs debate on *Recent challenges to democracy in Georgia* and decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate; appointed Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC) as the first speaker;

○ updated the revised draft agenda (Appendix 2);

– **Third part-session of 2024 (Strasbourg, 24-28 June):**

○ held an exchange of views on the organisation of the elections by the Assembly during the June 2024 part-session;

○ drew up the draft agenda;

– **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:**

○ North Macedonia - Presidential and parliamentary elections (24 April and 8 May 2024): took note of the statement of the delegation;

○ Bulgaria - early parliamentary elections (9 June 2024): approved the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 4);

○ Republic of Moldova - Presidential election (20 October 2024 - tbc): subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe this election and set up an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 20 members (SOC-6; EPP/CD-6; EC/DA-4; ALDE-3; UEL-1) as well as of the two co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, and authorised a pre-electoral mission;

○ Georgia - parliamentary elections (26 October 2024): decided to observe these elections and set up an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 30 members (SOC-9; EPP/CD-8; EC/DA-6; ALDE-5; UEL-2) as well as of the two co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, and authorised a pre-electoral mission;

– **2024 World Forum for Democracy - “Democracy and Diversity - Can we transcend the divides?” (Strasbourg, 6-8 November):** took note of the concept note and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum.

### **III. Meeting of the Standing Committee (Vilnius, 24 May 2024)**

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 24 May 2024 in Vilnius, Lithuania, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Assembly, and Ms Agnieszka Pomaska, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

- heard an opening speech by Ms Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas;
- heard a welcome address, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, by Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, First Head of State of the re-established independent Lithuania;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
- ratified the credentials of a new member of the Assembly submitted by the French delegation;
- approved the changes in the composition of Assembly committees;
- took note of the draft agenda of the third part-session of the Assembly (24-28 June 2024);
- ratified the references proposed by the Bureau (see Appendix 5);
- held a current affairs debate on “Recent challenges to democracy in Georgia” and heard statements by Mr Shalva Papuashvili, the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, and Ms Veronika Bílková, Vice-President of the Venice Commission and member in respect of Czechia;
- held a current affairs debate on "The 75th Anniversary of the Council of Europe: how to ensure the participation of all Europeans in the future of our Organisation?";
- heard a statement by Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarusian democratic forces;
- adopted the following texts on behalf of the Assembly:

<b>Recommendation 2275 (2024)</b>	<b>Ending the detention of “socially maladjusted” persons</b>
<b>Resolution 2548 (2024)</b>	<b>Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour</b>
<b>Recommendation 2276 (2024)</b>	<b>Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour</b>
<b>Resolution 2549 (2024)</b>	<b>Cultural heritage and climate change</b>
<b>Recommendation 2277 (2024)</b>	<b>Cultural heritage and climate change</b>
<b>Resolution 2550 (2024)</b>	<b>Quality education for children with special education needs: challenges of the pandemic, war and digitalisation</b>
<b>Recommendation 2278 (2024)</b>	<b>Quality education for children with special education needs: challenges of the pandemic, war and digitalisation</b>

- decided to hold its next meeting in Luxembourg on 29 November 2024.

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

➤ **An election observation delegation of the PACE** observed the two rounds of the presidential election (24 April and 8 May 2024) and parliamentary elections (8 May 2024) in North

Macedonia, in the framework of an International Election Observation Missions (IEOM) including ODIHR and (for the parliamentary elections) the OSCE PA and the European Parliament.

➤ On 17 May 2024, 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 *the follow-up to the Venice Commission's Opinions on electoral legislation in Armenia*, in the context of a report on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia prepared by Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC) and Ms Boriana Åberg (Sweden, EPP/CD), with the participation of Ms Katharina Pabel and Mr Oliver Kask, members of the Venice commission.

➤ On 21 May 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**:

. held a hearing on *Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights*, in the context of the follow-up of the report prepared by Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EC/DA) [Res. 2509; Rec. 2257] with the participation of Ms Lily Sparks, Advocacy Research Associate, Human Rights Watch, Paris; Ms Kanae Kanki, Senior Counsel, Notices and Diffusions Task Force (NDF), INTERPOL and Mr Pouria Zeraati, television journalist, Iran International, London

. held a hearing on *Commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Knut Abraham (Germany, EPP/CD) with the participation of Professor Martin Schulze-Wessel, Professor of Eastern European History, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany; Professor Yaroslav Hrytsak, Lviv University, Ukraine and Mr Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine.

➤ On 27 May 2024, in Copenhagen, the **Committee on Culture, Science and Media**:

. held a hearing on *Propaganda and freedom of information in Europe*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), and on *Public regulation of the freedom of expression on digital platforms*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Valentina Grippo (Italy, ALDE), with the participation of Mr Lubos Kuklis, Digital Services Act (DSA) team, European Commission, Brussels; Mr Jack Goodman, BBC, United Kingdom; and Mr Christian Hannibal, Head of Public Policy, Tik Tok, Denmark;

. held a hearing on *Risks and opportunities of the Metaverse*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Andi-Lucian Cristea (Romania, SOC), with the participation of Mr Mikael Bomholt, Head of Division for International Affairs, Ministry of Digital Government and Gender Equality, Denmark; Mr Børn Bedsted, Democracy X (formerly Danish Board of Technology - DBT), Denmark; and Ms Molly Lesher, Head of the Digital Policy, Economics, and Measurement Unit at the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD;

. held a hearing on *Gender equality in sport*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Kim Valentin (Denmark, ALDE) on "Protecting human rights in and through sport: obligations and shared responsibilities", with the participation of Ms Charlotte Girard-Fabre, Secretary General of the International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO); and Chairperson of the EPAS Consultative Committee, Council of Europe; Ms Nagin Ravand, UEFA licensed football coach, GLOBAL, Denmark; and Ms Annaliza Tsakona, FIFA International Relations and Public Affairs;

. 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 Hans Natorp, President of the Danish Sports Confederation, Denmark; Mr Jörg Krieger, Associate Professor, Chair of the Sport & Society Research Network, Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark; and Mr Antonio Di Marco, Teaching Professor of European Union Law, University of Strasbourg, France.

➤ On 28 May 2024, in Copenhagen, the **Committee on Culture, Science and Media**:

. held an exchange of views on *Culture and education: partnerships between cultural institutions, artists and schools to enhance young people's competences for democratic culture*, with the participation of Mr Kasper Holten, Director of the Royal Danish Theatre, and Mr Søren Bak-Jensen, Director of The Workers Museum, Denmark, Winner of the 2023 Council of Europe Museum Prize;

. held an exchange of views on *The role of sites of remembrance: places of commemoration and education for democratic citizenship*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Luz Martinez Seijo, (Spain, SOC), with the participation of Mr Carlos Gimeno Gurpegui, Minister of Education of Navarra, Spain; Ms Ana Ollo Hualde, 2nd Vice-President and Councillor for Memory and Living Together, Navarra, Spain; and Ms Almasa Salihović, Public Relations Officer, Memorial Center Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina;

. held a hearing on *European responses to new and emerging threats to journalism*, organised in co-operation with the partners of the Council of Europe Platform for the Safety of Journalists, with the participation of Mr Ricardo Gutiérrez, General Secretary, European Federation of Journalists, Belgium; Mr Scott Griffen, Deputy Director, International Press Institute, Austria; Ms Maria Ordzhonikidze, Director, Justice for Journalists Foundation, United Kingdom; Ms Irina Dolinina, Journalist iStories, Czechia; and Ms Tine Johansen, President of The Danish Union of Journalists, Denmark;

. 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 Mr Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General, Ukraine;

. held an exchange of views on *Media freedom in sport* with the participation of Mr Jens Sejer Andersen, International Director, Play the Game, Denmark and Mr Andrew Moger, Chief Executive Officer of News Media Coalition, United Kingdom.

➤ On 29 May 2024, in Paris, **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**

. held an exchange of views on *An urgent call to Europe and its partners: envisioning immediate and long-term policy solutions and support for the displaced people of Ukraine*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Lise Selnes (Norway, SOC), with the participation of Mr Pavlo Frolov, Chair of the Commission Temporary, Special Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the protection of property and non-property rights of internally displaced and other persons affected by the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine;

. held an exchange of views on *Putting an end to collective expulsions of aliens*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), with the participation of Ms Elodie Auzole, President of La Cimade for the Indian Ocean Region and Ms Vittoria Logripo, National Delegate of La Cimade for the Indian Ocean Region;

. held an exchange of views on *Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers: a call to clarify their fate*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Julian Pahlke (Germany, SOC), with the participation of Mr Peter Kimpian, Secretariat of the Data Protection Unit, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe;

. held an exchange of views on *The challenges and needs of public and private actors in migration management*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Sandra Zampa (Italy, SOC), with the participation of Ms Noémie Ninnin, Advocacy Officer/Protection Programmes at UNICEF France.

➤ On 3 June 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development** :

. held an exchange of views on *Promoting universal health coverage*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Heike Engelhardt, (Germany, SOC), with the participation of Ms Francesca Colombo, Head of Health Division, OECD;

- . held an exchange of views on *Combating greenwashing: a fundamental rights perspective*, with the participation of Dr. Patrycja Pogodzinska from FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights).
- On 4 June 2024, in Paris, the **Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment** :
  - . held an exchange of views on *Ensuring safe, healthy and sustainable food for all*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Simon Moutquin, (Belgium, SOC), with the participation of Ms Pauline Scherer, Sociologist, Research and Experimentation Centre, Montpellier, France; Magali Ramel, Doctor of Public Law, Paris and Mr Timothée Parrique, research economist at the Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Lund, Sweden.
- On 5 June 2024, in Tirana, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination** and the **Parliamentary Network Women free from Violence**:
  - . heard welcome addresses by Ms Etilda Gjonaj, PACE General Rapporteur on violence against women and First Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination; H.E. Lindita Nikolla, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament; Ms Louise Barton, Director of Committees, PACE Directorate Human Dignity and Sustainable Development; Dr Linda Rama, Public Policy Senior Analyst and Civil Society Activist; Ms Helga Schmid, Secretary General of the OSCE (pre-recorded video) and Ms Stella Ronner-Grubačić, Ambassador for Gender and Diversity, EEAS (pre-recorded video).
- On 5 June 2024, in Tirana, the **Parliamentary Network Women free from Violence**:
  - . held an exchange of views on *Addressing the intersection of psychological and online violence against women: challenges and best practices*, with the participation of: Ms Albana Kociu, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Albania; Ms Ogerta Manastirliu, Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, Albania; Ms Elif Sariaydin, Administrator, Violence against Women Division of the Council of Europe, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe; Mr Michele Ribotta, UN Women, Representative and Chair of UN Albania Gender Group; Ms Luz Martinez Seijo, member of the Spanish Delegation to PACE; Ms Klodiana Spahiu, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Labour, Social Issues and Health, Parliament of Albania, and Ms Ines Leskaj, representative of Albanian Women's Empowerment Network (AWEN);
  - . held an exchange of views on *Regional overview: the role of the media in countering online violence against women in politics*, with the participation of Ambassador Michel Tarran, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania; Ms Iris Luarasi, Director of the Counselling Line for Women and Girls (CLWG), former President of the GREVIO; Ms Flutura Acka, Chair of the Committee on Education and Public Information Media, Parliament of Albania; Ms Evis Kushi, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Education and Public Information Media, Parliament of Albania ; Ms Valbona Sulçe, journalist and Ms Anila Basha, journalist.
- On 5 June 2024, in Tirana, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**:
  - . held an exchange of views with the Albanian authorities, with the participation of Ms Klotilda Bushka, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Public Administration and Human Rights, Parliament of Albania; Ms Denada Seferi, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection, and Mr Ergys Qirici, Director, Directorate of Free Legal Aid, Ministry of Justice;
  - . held a hearing on *Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR), with the participation of Ms Delina Ibrahimaj, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Business Climate of Albania; Ms Milva Ekonomi, Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Economy and Finance, Parliament of Albania; Ms Emiriana Sako, Mayor of Durres; Ms Jonida Halili, Vice Mayor of Tirana and Mr Emanuel Salinas, World Bank Country Manager for Albania;

- . held a hearing on *A regional overview on equality and non-discrimination*, with the participation of Mr Taulant Balla, Minister of Interior of Albania; Mr Robert Gajda, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, Albania; Ms Giulia Re, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tirana, and Ms Vilma Shurdha, Commissioner, Albanian Ombudsperson Office.
- On 6 June 2024, in Tirana, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**:
  - . held a hearing on *Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC), with the participation of Mr Genti Kruja, Secretary General and Ms Sheldiana Jano Agaraj, lawyer, Inter-Religious Council of Albania; and Ms Susan Kerr, Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief, OSCE/ODIHR;
  - . held an exchange of views on *Sexual and reproductive health and rights in Europe*, with the participation of Mr Leonidas Galeridis, Policy and Research Officer, European Parliamentary Forum for sexual and reproductive rights (EPF).
- An election observation delegation of the PACE observed the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria on 9 June 2024.
- On 11 June 2024, in Riga, the **Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence**:
  - . held an exchange of views on *From ratification to implementation of the Istanbul Convention – legislation, budgeting and monitoring structures*, with the participation of: Ms Inese Lībiņa-Egnere, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Latvia; Mr Edmunds Cepurītis, member of the Latvian delegation to the PACE and Chair of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality; Ms Maria Andriani Kostopoulou, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), and Ms Zane Skujiņa-Rubene, Chair of the Equality Sub-Committee of the Social Affairs Committee;
  - . held an exchange of views on *The role and responsibilities of parliaments in monitoring implementation of the Istanbul Convention – working with GREVIO, building alliances*, with the participation of: Ms Etilda Gjonaj, PACE General Rapporteur on Violence against Women, member of the Albanian delegation to PACE; Ms Laura Castel, member of the Spanish delegation to PACE; Ms Liisa-Li Pakosta, Chair of the Estonian delegation to PACE; Mr Georgios Stamatis, member of the Greek delegation to PACE; Ms Catia Polidori, member of the Italian delegation to PACE; Ms Aysu Bankoğlu, member of the Turkish delegation to PACE; Ms Sevilay Çelenk Özen, member of the Turkish delegation to PACE and Ms Carolina Lasén Díaz, Secretary to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (former Executive Secretary of the Istanbul Convention);
  - . held an exchange of views on *The role and co-operation between parliaments and NGOs/civil society specialised on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*, with the participation of: Ms Penelope Denu, Head of the Secretariat of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination; Ms Leila Rasima, Chair of the Human Rights and Public Affairs Committee; Ms Beata Jonite, Policy coordinator, MARTA Centre; Ms Inete Ielīte, Chair of the Women's NGO Cooperation Network of Latvia; and Ms Maija Krastiņa, Founder of "Sievietei Paveicās".

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

- ***The detention of Julian Assange and its chilling effects on human rights***

**Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir**, (Iceland, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights* carried out a fact-finding visit to London on **13-14 May 2024**.

- ***Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting***



**Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat** (Türkiye, NR), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom on **14-15 May 2024**.

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

**Mr Stefan Schennach** (Austria, SOC), 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 Ankara and Istanbul from **11 to 14 June 2024**.

➤ ***Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women in Europe***

**Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo** (Monaco, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Italy on **17-18 June 2024**.

➤ ***Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe***

**Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica** (Latvia, EPP/CD), rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* carried out a fact-finding visit to Helsinki on **17 June 2024**.

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

➤ ***Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons***

**Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler** (Austria, EPP/CD), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out an online meeting with Ms Rossalina Latcheva and Ms Sabine Springer, from the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), on **2 May 2024**. She also carried out an online meeting with Professor Gerard Quinn, former First Vice-President of the European Committee on Social Rights of the Council of Europe, on **16 May 2024**, and another online meeting with Ms Alana Officer, of the World Health Organisation, on **21 May 2024**.

➤ ***Public regulation of the freedom of expression on digital platforms***  
➤ ***Media concentration and threats to media pluralism and independence***

**Ms Valentina Grippo** (Italy, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, and General Rapporteur on Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists, will participate online in the 25th CDMSI plenary on **19 June 2024**.

## **VII. Other activities of members of the Assembly**

➤ **Ms Luz Martinez Seijo** (Spain, SOC), member of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, participated in the EMYA2024 Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony, from **3 to 4 May 2024** in Portimão (Portugal).

➤ **Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk** (Ukraine, ALDE), member of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media* and Rapporteur on "Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace", participated in the Roundtable on *democratic values on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe*, on **7 May 2024** in Kyiv.

➤ **Mr Georgios Stamatis** (Greece, EPP/CD) took part in the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues of the Council of Europe (ADI-ROM) on **15-16 May 2024** in Strasbourg.

➤ **Ms Edite Estrela** (Portugal, SOC), member of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media* and in her role as committee representative to the North-South Centre, participated in the 30th Bureau meeting of the North-South Centre on **21 May 2024** in Lisbon.

➤ **Ms Luz Martinez Seijo** (Spain, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, participated in person in the opening of the 12th European Remembrance Symposium on **21-24 May 2024**, in Warsaw, Poland.

- **12 June 2024**, in Berlin: Members of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* participated in a round table on *How to enhance the effectiveness of sanctions against the Russian Federation*.
- **Ms Stephanie Krisper** (Austria, ALDE) was invited by the Special Rapporteur of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, to participate in the meeting of the Network of Focal Points on Migration on **13-14 June 2024** in her capacity as Rapporteur on *Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures*.
- **Ms Valentina Grippo** (ALDE, Italy), General Rapporteur on Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists, will participate in the 2nd Meeting of National Focal Points under the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists 'Journalists Matter' on **20-21 June 2024** in Strasbourg.

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

- **30 April 2024, Rabat**: the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division* in cooperation with the Moroccan Parliament organised the closing seminar *Migration and climate change: how do they fit together?* in the framework of the project "Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco " funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe. The conference focused on issues of migration and climate change. It provided a platform to examine, discuss and exchange on how Morocco and European countries are dealing with these issues and the specific mechanisms to promote sustainable development and migrant integration policy. The President of the Assembly participated in the opening session of the seminar. Two members of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, Ms Arusyak Julhakyany (Armenia, EPP/CD) and Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) were also appointed by the Committee to participate in this conference.
- **1 May 2024, Kyiv**: the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division*, in the framework of the project on "Supporting democratic post-war elections in Ukraine" organised a presentation to the members of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine (CEC) of the results of the needs assessment produced and the brainstorming session conducted, as well as further proposed plan of action with regard to the elaboration of the CEC's communication strategy, awareness-raising and education campaign on first post-war elections in Ukraine. Respective activities are conducted within the framework of the Joint Action with the CEC and other international partners (International IDEA, IFES) launched and supported by the Council of Europe since 2023 with regard to the development of communication strategy for the first post-war elections in Ukraine.
- **20 May 2024, Kyiv**: the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division* participated in a Round table on *Ensuring women's engagement in political processes in Ukraine* in cooperation with the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional and Urban Development, as well as other international and national partners (IFES, Civic Network "OPORA"). The round table discussion was focused on the issues of common strategy towards supporting active women participation in political processes, ensuring guarantees for women's electoral rights in view of the challenges caused by the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, as well as strengthening the legal framework for the provision and effective enforcement of gender quota in electoral lists. More than 50 participants, including members and representatives of the Parliament of Ukraine, Central Election Commission, other state authorities, civil society and international organizations, took part in the discussion. Following the round table, on 27 May 2024, the draft law aimed at strengthening women's political participation was registered in the Ukrainian Parliament upon the initiative of 43 Members of the Ukrainian Parliament representing different political parties, party factions, and groups (draft law No. 11300 titled "On Counteracting Sexism in Electoral Processes and Ensuring Balanced Representation of Women and Men in the Verkhovna Rada and Local Councils").
- **21 May and 4 June 2024, Kyiv**: the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division* participated in the First two episodes of series of radio programmes on war-related challenges for organisation and conduct of first post-war elections in Ukraine aired on "Ukrainian Radio" – a publicly-funded radio broadcaster in Ukraine and one of the biggest and most popular nationwide news and talk FM radio networks in Ukraine. The activity is conducted in the framework of cooperation with the Central Election Commission of Ukraine with the aim to prevent and mitigate the risks of public opinion manipulations channelled through disinformation and misinformation

campaign about elections in Ukraine, and for that purpose to raise public awareness on necessary democratic pre-conditions for the conduct of free, fair, and transparent elections.

➤ **22-25 May 2024, Chisinau:** the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division*, in the framework of the project "Improving electoral practice in the Republic of Moldova, Phase 3" organised a four-day workshop *Building Institutional Excellency in Moldovan Election Administration for 25 representatives of the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova and the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training based on the BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) methodology*. The workshop focused on the structure and operation of the electoral management institutions, rather than on the electoral processes and delivery they oversee. Participants gained knowledge and practical skills aimed at strengthening and protecting the Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and their reputations, ensuring EMBs to carry out their mandate with integrity and efficiency, thereby upholding the legitimacy of electoral processes ahead of the Autumn 2024 presidential election and EU-related referendum, considering the partial implementation of postal voting for Moldovan citizens abroad.

➤ **24 May 2024, Vilnius:** the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division*, in cooperation with the Lithuanian delegation to PACE organised a hearing on *Sanctions against the Russian Federation and companies assisting with evasion* in the margins of the meeting of the PACE Standing Committee. The event aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the existing sanctions against the Russian Federation and to analyse their impact and effectiveness. It also considered effective mechanisms to monitor compliance with sanctions and prevent their circumvention. Furthermore, the discussion emphasised the role of parliaments in ensuring that sanctions are properly implemented and achieve their intended objectives.

➤ **27-29 May 2024, Kyiv:** the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division* participated in a 3-days training on ITIL – internationally recognised and most widely used framework designed to standardise the selection, planning, delivery, maintenance, and overall lifecycle of IT services within an organisation – for the IT staff of the Secretariat of the Central Election Commission with a purpose to enhance their knowledge on key concepts, principles, and practices of IT Service Management. The series of specialised IT trainings for the CEC staff is conducted upon the request of the Commission to improve its operational efficiency and service management capabilities, as well as to ensure efficient use of innovative cybersecurity systems recently introduced in the CEC. The trainings on ITIL followed previous trainings on IBM QRadar SIEM completed by the CEC IT professionals in March 2024 with the Project support.

➤ **3-4 June 2024, Strasbourg:** the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division*, in the framework of the project "Supporting transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice and processes in Georgia, Phase 2" organised a study visit for a delegation of 13 representatives, including the Chairperson and Secretary of the Central Election Commission of Georgia to the Council of Europe Headquarters ahead of the 26 October 2024 Parliamentary elections in Georgia. In the frame of the study visit, the delegation engaged with representatives from most of the institutions and departments composing the Council of Europe electoral cycle, covering all phases of the electoral process: in particular with representatives from the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities who detailed their monitoring mechanisms and procedures, as well as their respective election observation missions covering national, local and regional elections; the Venice Commission, Gender equality, Anti-Discrimination, Freedom of expression, Data protection and Artificial intelligence, the ECHR and execution of judgement. The delegation had the opportunity to delve into the respective policy and legal standards and instruments of the Organisation, as well as good practices of the member States. Considering that upcoming 26 October 2024 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia will be held with the use of new information and communication technology (ICT) nationwide, the study visit focused on the international standards on the use of ICT in electoral processes and examined appropriate measures to prevent any interference in electoral systems and processes.

➤ **6 June 2024, Chisinau:** the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division* participated in a training on electoral disputes resolution for Magistrates ahead of 2024 presidential election in the Republic of Moldova was organised in Chisinau. Approximately 50 judges and prosecutors actively participated in the training aimed to unify practices regarding the approach and settlement of electoral disputes and addressed pertinent electoral procedures. Participants engaged discussions on various topics, including on the application of European Court of Human Rights case law in electoral field, the specificity of the legal provisions on the organisation of presidential election and constitutional referendum, the upcoming challenges related to the out of country postal vote, the

interference of the Electoral Code with the Administrative Code, as well as the jurisprudence of the administrative courts in settlement of electoral disputes among others.

➤ **6-7 June 2024, Luxembourg:** the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons* organised a Conference on The role of national parliaments in addressing the challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile - The Luxembourg solutions. The President of the Assembly opened the event, while members of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* also participated in the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau.

➤ **13 June 2024, Geneva:** the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau participated in the meeting on *The situation of the children of Ukraine* in the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters (ICRC). It met with different international organisations on the situation of refugees, displaced and deported children of Ukraine. On this occasion, the President of the Assembly had a bilateral meeting with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Ms Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) represented the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* in this meeting.

➤ **18-20 June 2024, Lisbon:** the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division* participated in a study visit of the 9 representatives of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Moldova, led by its chair and deputy chair, to public authorities of Portugal to exchange practices and learn from the National Electoral Commission of Portugal and other stakeholders on specific competences in organisation and conduct of elections, especially on postal voting, which will be partially implemented for the first time in the Autumn 2024 presidential election and EU-related referendum.

➤ **18 June 2024, Kyiv:** the *PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division* participated in the third episode of series of radio programmes on war-related challenges for organisation and conduct of first post-war elections in Ukraine to be aired on “Ukrainian Radio” (a publicly funded radio broadcaster in Ukraine). The activity is conducted with the aim to prevent and mitigate the risks of public opinion manipulations channelled through disinformation and misinformation campaign about elections in Ukraine, and for that purpose to raise public awareness on necessary democratic pre-conditions for conduct free, fair, and transparent elections.

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

➤ **30 May 2024, Oslo:** the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* held a hearing with the participation of Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), followed by an exchange of views.

➤ Legal advice was provided by representatives of the Venice Commission to the PACE delegations observing the presidential and parliamentary elections in **North Macedonia (24 April and 8 May 2024)** and the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (**9 June 2024**).

➤ **20 June 2024, Venice:** Mr Georg Link (Germany, ALDE), member of the *Committee on the Political Affairs and Democracy*, Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) representing the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights* and Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) representing the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)* will participate in the 80<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections.

➤ **21-22 June 2024, Venice (Italy):** Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) representing the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights* is foreseen to attend the 139<sup>th</sup> Plenary session of the Venice Commission.

## **X. External relations**

### **- Relations with the European Parliament and other European Union institutions**

➤ An election observation delegation of the PACE observed the presidential and parliamentary elections in North Macedonia (**24 April and 8 May 2024**) with (for the parliamentary elections) the European Parliament, in the framework of an International Election Observation Missions (IEOM).

➤ During the visit of the PACE President to Vienna, on **14-15 May 2024**, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly held a meeting with the new Director of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Ms Sirpa Rautio, to discuss how to strengthen our bilateral co-operation, particularly with a view to enabling the FRA to better contribute to the activities of the Assembly's Committees, but also to working jointly on the common priorities (including those that result from the consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine).

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

➤ An election observation delegation of the PACE observed the presidential and parliamentary elections in North Macedonia (**24 April 2024 and 8 May**) in the framework of an International Election Observation Missions (IEOM) including ODIHR and (for the parliamentary elections) the OSCE PA.

➤ **15 May 2024, The Hague:** Ms Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people took part in the 2024 IDAHOT+ Forum, was a speaker in the session on freedom of expression and held a bilateral meeting with Graeme Reid, United Nations Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity.

➤ An election observation delegation of the PACE co-operated with the team of ODIHR election experts during the observation of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria on 9 June 2024.

➤ **13 June 2024, Washington, D.C.:** Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, (Iceland, SOC), appeared as a witness on behalf of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in her capacity as General Rapporteur on Political Prisoners, in a hearing of the US Congress on *What the US and Europe can do together to help political prisoners and their families*.

➤ **17-20 June 2024, Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem (Israel) and Ramallah (Palestinian territories):** Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) in his capacity as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, will carry out the outstanding visit in the framework of the follow-up of the report on "Recent developments in the Middle East: Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel and Israel's response".

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

. **17 May 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*

. **21 May 2024 Paris:** *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*

. **23 May 2024 - Vilnius:** *Presidential Committee*

. **23 May 2024 - Vilnius:** *Bureau Meeting*

. **23 May 2024 - Vilnius:** *Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*

. **24 May 2024 - Vilnius:** *Standing Committee*

. **27-28 May 2024 - Copenhagen:** *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*

. **29 May 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*

- . **30-31 May 2024 - Oslo:** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
- . **3 June 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*
- . **4 June 2024 – Paris:** *Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment*
- . **5 June 2024 - Tirana:** *Parliamentary Network Women from Violence*
- . **5-6 June 2024 - Tirana:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*
- . **11 June 2024 - Riga:** *Parliamentary Network Women from Violence: peer-to-peer Seminar From policies to results: the role of parliamentarians in implementing and monitoring the Istanbul Convention*
- . **13 June 2024 – Geneva :** *Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau regarding the situation of the children of Ukraine*

## Appendix 1 – Agenda of the 2024 third part-session



Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée parlementaire

<https://pace.coe.int>



Doc. 15990 prov1  
19 June 2024

### Third part of the 2024 Ordinary Session (24-28 June 2024)

Draft agenda<sup>1</sup>

---

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 23 May 2024. Updated, on 19 June 2024, under the authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly, to reflect the modifications to be proposed to the Bureau of the Assembly.

<https://pace.coe.int>



## Abbreviations

---

Bur: Bureau of the Assembly

Per: Standing Committee

Pol: Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Jur: Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Soc: Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Mig: Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Cult: Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

Ega: Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

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

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

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

SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group

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

EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance





ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

UEL: Group of the Unified European Left

NR: Members not belonging to a political group

## Symbols

---

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

## Meetings outside the Chamber

---

### Joint Committee (tbc)

Wednesday: 15:30-16:30

### Bureau of the Assembly

Monday: 08:00-09:30

Friday: 08:30-10:00

### Committees

Monday: 14:00-15:30

Tuesday: 08:30-10:00

Tuesday: 14:00-15:30

Wednesday: 14:00-15:30

Thursday: 08:30-10:00

Thursday: 14:00-15:30

### Political groups

Monday: 09:30-11:30

Monday: 17:30-19:30

Tuesday: 13:00-14:00

Wednesday: 08:30-10:00



---

# Monday 24 June 2024

---

## Sitting No. 15 (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. Urgent procedure debate: "Challenges to democracy in Georgia"

1.4.2. Current affairs debate: "Can the Council of Europe step up its efforts to counter threats to the freedom of expression?"

1.5. Adoption of the agenda

1.6. Approval of the minutes of the Standing Committee (Vilnius, 24 May 2024)

### 2. Ceremony

2.1. Ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe

Statement by:

o Mr Wolfgang SOBOTKA, President of the National Council of Austria

### 3. Debate

3.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee

Presentation by:

o Mr Ian LIDDELL-GRAINGER (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. 16007, Doc. 16007 Add. 2)

3.2. Observation of the presidential and parliamentary elections in North Macedonia (24 April and 8 May 2024)

Presentation by:

o Mr Alfred HEER (Switzerland, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 24 June, 10:00)

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

4.1. Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment<sup>2</sup>

Statements by:

o His excellency Mr Guðni Thorlacius JÓHANNESON, President of Iceland

o Mr Guðmundur Ingi GUÐBRANDSSON, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Market of Iceland

## Sitting No. 16 (15:30-17:30)

---

### 5. Address (15:30-16:00)

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

---

2. See separate programme, AS/Inf(2024)07.

## **6. Debate (continued)**

### **6.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (continued)**


Presentation by:

- o Mr Ian LIDDELL-GRAINGER (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. 16007, Doc. 16007 Add. 2)

### **6.2. Observation of the presidential and parliamentary elections in North Macedonia (24 April and 8 May 2024) (continued)**

Presentation by:

- o Mr Alfred HEER (Switzerland, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 24 June, 10:00)


## **7. Debate**


### **7.1. Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure**

Presentation by:

- o Ms Ingrid Schie SCHOU (Norway, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pro (Doc. 15996)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 24 June, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 24 June, 11:00)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15996)

**Sitting No. 17 (10:00-13:00)**

---

**8. Election (10:05-12:05)**

**8.1. Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

- List:
  - o (Doc. 15968)

**9. Joint debate**

**9.1. Strengthening democracy through participatory and deliberative processes**

- Presentation by:
  - o Mr George PAPANDEOU (Greece, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 16001)

**9.2. Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly**

- Presentation by:
  - o Mr Anastasios CHATZIVASILEIOU (Greece, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 15871)
  - o Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Cult (Doc. 15872)
- Statement by:
  - o Ms Marharyta VORYKHAVA, vice-chair of the Advisory Council on Youth
- List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 24 June, 16:30)
- Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 24 June, 16:00)
- Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16001)
- Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15871)

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

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

- Presentation by:
  - o Mr Gabrielius LANDSBERGIS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and President of the Committee of Ministers
- Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 24 June, 16:30)
- Written questions (deadline for tabling: Monday 17 June, 11:30)

**Sitting No. 18 (15:30-20:00)**

---

**11. [Possibly] Election (2nd round) (16:00-18:00)**

**11.1. Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

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

**12.1. Mr Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for human rights**

- Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 25 June, 12:00)

**13. Debate**

**13.1. Protecting women human rights defenders in Europe**

- Presentation by:
  - o Ms Petra BAYR (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 15993)
- List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 25 June, 12:00)
- Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 24 June, 16:00)
- Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15993)

## 14. Debate

### 14.1. Ensuring human rights-compliant asylum procedures

- Presentation by:
  - Ms Stephanie KRISPER (Austria, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Mig ([Doc. 15997](#))
- 📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 25 June, 12:00)
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 24 June, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 15997](#))

**Sitting No. 19** (10:00-13:00)

---

**15. [Possibly] Elections** (10:05-12:05)

**15.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights**

- Lists of candidates:
  - o Austria (Doc. 16007 Add. 2, Doc. 15988)
  - o Finland (Doc. 16007 Add. 2, Doc. 15991)
  - o Serbia (Doc. 16007 Add. 2, Doc. 15985)

**16. Joint debate**

**16.1. Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine**


- Presentation by:
  - o Mr Davor Ivo STIER (Croatia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15998)

**16.2. The role of sanctions in countering the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine**

- Presentation by:
  - o Ms Yelyzaveta YASKO (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 16000)

**16.3. Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace**

- Presentation by:
  - o Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 16003)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 25 June, 19:00)

**Sitting No. 20** (16:30-20:00)

---

**17. [Possibly] Elections (2nd round)** (16:30-18:30)

**17.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights**

**18. Joint debate (continued)**

**18.1. Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine**


- Presentation by:
  - o Mr Davor Ivo STIER (Croatia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15998)


**18.2. The role of sanctions in countering the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine**


- Presentation by:
  - o Ms Yelyzaveta YASKO (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 16000)


**18.3. Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace**


- Presentation by:
  - o Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 16003)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 25 June, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 25 June, 16:00)

 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15998)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16000)

 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 16003)

## 19. Debate

### 19.1. Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress

#### ☐ Presentation by:

- Lord Richard KEEN (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 15933)
- Mr George LOUCAIDES (Cyprus, UEL), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Pol (Doc. ...)

📖 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 26 June, 12:00)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 25 June, 16:00)

🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 15933)

## 20. Debate

### 20.1. The honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia

#### ☐ Presentation by:

- Mr Kimmo KILJUNEN (Finland, SOC), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 15994)
- Ms Boriana ÅBERG (Sweden, EPP/CD), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 15994)

📖 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 26 June, 12:00)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 25 June, 16:00)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15994)

---

## Thursday 27 June 2024

---

### Sitting No. 21 (10:00-13:00)

---

#### 21. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure

#### 22. Debate

##### 22.1. An urgent call to Europe and its partners: envisioning immediate and long-term policy solutions in support of the displaced people of Ukraine

Presentation by:

o Ms Lise SELNES (Norway, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 16002)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 26 June, 19:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 26 June, 10:30)

Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16002)

### Sitting No. 22 (15:30-20:00)

---

#### 23. [Possibly] Current affairs debate

#### 24. Debate

##### 24.1. Call for Varosha's return to its lawful inhabitants

Presentation by:

o Mr Piero FASSINO (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 16004)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 27 June, 12:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 26 June, 16:00)

Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16004)

#### 25. Debate

##### 25.1. Post-conflict time: defusing ticking time bombs for a safe return of displaced populations

Presentation by:

o Mr Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ (Croatia), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 15995)

List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 27 June, 12:00)

Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 26 June, 16:00)

Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15995)

---

**Friday 28 June 2024**

---

**Sitting No. 23** (10:00-13:00)

---

**26. Debate**

**26.1. Safeguarding human rights for future generations**

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Pedro CEGONHO (Portugal, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 15999)
- o Ms Gala VELDHOEN (Netherlands, SOC), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Jur (Doc. ...)

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 27 June, 19:00)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 27 June, 10:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 15999)

**27. Progress report (continued)**

**28. Closure of the part-session**



## Appendix 2 – Revised Agenda - Standing Committee

AS/Per (2024) OJ 02 rev5

23 May 2024

# Standing Committee

## Revised draft agenda

of the meeting to be held

**in Vilnius on Friday 24 May 2024 from 9:30 to 12:45 and from 14:30 to 16:00**

*(Venue: Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino pr. 53, Vilnius, Lithuania)*

**Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly**

**Opening speech by Ms Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas**

**Welcome address on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe by Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, First Head of State of the re-established independent Lithuania**

**Exchange of views with Mr Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**

**Examination of new credentials**

Doc. 15987

**Modifications in the composition of committees**

Commissions  
(2024) 05  
Commissions  
(2024) 05 Add

**(Possibly) Requests for debate (under Rules 52 and 53 of the Rules of Procedure):**

Urgent procedure debate: "The 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe: how to ensure the participation of all Europeans in the future of our Organisation?"

Current affairs debate: "Recent challenges to democracy in Georgia"

Current affairs debate: "The 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe: how to ensure the participation of all Europeans in the future of our Organisation?"

**Agenda**

AS/Per (2024)  
OJ 02 rev5

Adoption of the agenda

**Third part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (24-28 June 2024)**

AS/Bur (2024) 20

Consideration of the 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**

**Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 9:30**

**Deadline for tabling amendments for the (possible) urgent debate: Friday 24 May 2024 at 10:00**

**References to committees**

AS/Per  
(2024)  
04

Consideration of the proposals submitted by the Bureau of the Assembly

(Possibly) **Current affairs debate**

Recent challenges to democracy in Georgia

(Possibly) **Current affairs debate**

The 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe: how to ensure the participation of all Europeans in the future of our Organisation?

**At 14:30**

**Statement by Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarusian democratic forces**

**Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

a. Ending the detention of “socially maladjusted” persons

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:*

*Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC)*

Doc.  
15983  
and  
amendm  
ents

Debate

Vote on a draft recommendation

b. Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:*

*Ms Eka Sepashvili (Georgia, EC/DA)*

Doc.  
15982

Debate

Vote on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation

**Culture, Science, Education and Media**

a. Cultural heritage and climate change

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:*

*Mr Andries Gryffroy (Belgium, NR)*

Doc.  
15926

Debate

Vote on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation

b. Quality education for children special education needs: challenges of the pandemic, war and digitalisation

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:*

*Mr Pavlo Sushko (Ukraine, EC/DA)*

Doc.  
15984

Debate  
Vote on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation

### **Other business**

### **Next meeting**

Luxembourg, 29 November 2024

## **Appendix 3 -references and transmissions to committees**

### **A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES**

1. **Preserving European rural culture and heritage, Doc. 15974:** reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*
2. **Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media, Doc. 15975:** reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*
3. **The humanitarian situation of (mainly) children and women in Gaza, the West Bank and in Israel, Doc. 15977:** reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

### **B. REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS OF REFERENCES**

1. **Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan, Doc. 15521:** extension until 31 December 2024
2. **Legal aspects of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights, Doc. 15014:** extension until 31 December 2024

**Appendix 4 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (9 June 2024)**

**Chairperson / Président :** Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine

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

Mr. / M. Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine

Ms / Mme Kate OSBORNE, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye

ZZ

ZZ

ZZ

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

Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania / Roumanie

ZZ

ZZ

ZZ

ZZ

ZZ

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

Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine

Mr / M. Morten WOLD, Norway / Norvège

ZZ

ZZ

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

Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse

ZZ

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

Ms / Mme Sevilay ÇELENK ÖZEN, Türkiye

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

Ms / Mme Deborah BERGAMINI, Italy/ Italie\_ EPP/CD (excused)

Ms / Mme Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande\_SOC (excused)

**Venice Commission / Commission de Venise**

Mr / M. Michael JANSSEN, Legal Advisor

Ms / Mme Katharina PABEL, Austria / Autriche, representative of the Venice Commission

## **Appendix 5 - References to committees**

### **1. Preserving European rural culture and heritage**

**Doc. 15974**

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Zeynep Yıldız (Türkiye, NR) and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

### **2. Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media**

**Doc. 15975**

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE) and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*

### **3. The humanitarian situation of (mainly) children and women in Gaza, the West Bank and in Israel**

**Doc. 15977**

**Motion for a recommendation tabled by Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC) and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*