



Information documents

SG-AS (2024) 07

24 September 2024

Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1508th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (25 September 2024)

¹ This document covers activities of the Assembly since the meeting of the Bureau of 28 June 2024 up to the meeting of the Bureau of 30 September 2024.

I. Main developments between the Assembly's June 2024 part-session and the October 2024 part-session

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

On 2 July, the [Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly participated in the opening the third high-level dialogue](#) with Ukrainian partners in Strasbourg on the theme "Good democratic governance in Ukraine: achievements, challenges and the way forward in the post-war period". She emphasised the significance of decisions taken during the PACE June 2024 part-session, which confirmed the Assembly's support for Ukraine. She highlighted the Assembly's debate on establishing a special tribunal to address the crime of aggression and violations of international law by the Russian Federation; the discussion on tightening sanctions against Russia and closing loopholes for evading them; and the condemnation of Russia's efforts to erase Ukrainian cultural identity. The SGPA further drew attention to the creation of a [new parliamentary network](#) on the situation of the children of Ukraine. The [President of the PACE and the First Vice-Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada](#) Oleksandr Korniyenko met the day before. The ongoing co-operation established between the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Council of Europe was positively assessed, including the notable results achieved in the framework of the projects "Strengthening relations and co-operation between the Ukrainian Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly" and "Supporting democratic post-war elections in Ukraine". The President stressed the Assembly's commitment to ensuring that the Verkhovna Rada fully exercises its constitutional powers and parliamentary scrutiny to preserve and ensure the good functioning of democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights.

On 1 August, the President of PACE made a [statement](#) on the release of Vladimir Kara-Murza and other political prisoners: "It is with great joy that I welcome, on behalf of the Assembly, the liberation of our friend Vladimir Kara-Murza as well as the other political prisoners who have reached safety today, after being detained unlawfully for expressing their opposition to the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, and for their actions in support of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Russian Federation. [...] While sharing the relief of the families of the political prisoners who have been freed today, the Assembly continues to stand in solidarity with the families of the political prisoners who remain unlawfully detained in the Russian Federation and Belarus. The Assembly will continue to support, through concrete actions, Russian democratic forces who share the Council of Europe's values and who demand the end of the aggression against Ukraine and a democratic future for Russia."

On 4 September, PACE President Theodoros Rousopoulos has reacted in a [statement](#) to recent missile strikes in Ukraine, and again urged the speedy creation of a special tribunal to try Russia's political and military leadership for the crime of aggression. Referring to the Ministers of Justice of the Council of Europe members States meeting on the next day in Vilnius to discuss the issue of accountability for international crimes committed in Ukraine, the President strongly urged them "to step up efforts aimed at the creation of a special tribunal for the crime of aggression, to hold to account the leadership of the Russian Federation for what has been rightly called the 'crime of crimes': starting a war, which brings unspeakable suffering and misery to soldiers and civilians alike. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has been crystal clear on this subject. A special tribunal, created by an agreement between the Council of Europe and Ukraine and supported by an enlarged partial agreement open to non-member states and other international organisations, is now the best and most feasible option, in terms of legal basis and political legitimacy, for trying Russia's political and military leadership for the crime of aggression." He hoped for the Vilnius Conference to give a strong impetus to the Committee of Ministers to move quickly on setting up the necessary legal framework for this key body.

B. Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit

On 4 July, the President of PACE spoke at the opening of [the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter in Vilnius](#). He stated that defending social rights required a significant leap at both national and European levels, "and more solidarity and collective effort", in order to preserve social peace and democratic stability across the continent. He further stressed the importance of completing ratification of the Turin Protocol. The conference, organised under the auspices of the Presidency of Lithuania to the Committee of Ministers, in the framework of the follow-up to the Fourth Summit of the Council of Europe, brought together Ministers and senior officials competent in the field of social rights and social policy, representatives of Council of Europe entities, as well as representatives from the European Commission, the Fundamental Rights Agency, the ILO, the UN, and from civil society.

PACE President [welcomed](#) on 5 September the opening for signature of the new Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, which he hailed as “a major step forward” and a springboard for ongoing discussion about the ramifications of AI in all our lives. “We must be ready to use this powerful and exciting technology for the good of society, in full awareness of the possible risks, and maintaining always human control over what humans have created,” the President said, recalling that AI had been one of the priority areas for his Presidency.

II. Meeting of the Bureau (6 September 2024)

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 6 September 2024, in Paris:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and held an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Fourth part-session of 2024 (Strasbourg, 30 September - 4 October):**
 - *Requests for debates under urgent procedure:* took note of the requests tabled by the leaders of the political groups to hold debates on:
 - *Deteriorating situation of human rights, Rule of Law and democracy in Azerbaijan;*
 - *Missing persons due to the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine: prisoners of war and civilians in captivity;*
 - *Draft agenda:* updated the draft agenda of the part-session (Appendix 1);
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 2, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;
- **Election observation:**
 - *Republic of Moldova: Presidential election and Constitutional Referendum (20 October 2024):* approved the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 3);
 - *Georgia: Parliamentary elections (26 October 2024):* approved the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 4);
 - *Bulgaria: Early parliamentary elections (27 October 2024):* decided to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC: 6 ; EPP/CD: 6 ; EC/DA:4 ; ALDE:3; UEL: 1) as well as the co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee; given the very short timeframe since the last early parliamentary elections of 9 June 2024, decided to maintain the same list of members and the same Chairperson of the ad hoc committee, Mr Oleksii Goncharenko (Ukraine, EC/DA), while filling the previously vacant seats (Appendix 5);
 - *Uzbekistan: Parliamentary elections (27 October 2024):* decided not to observe these elections;
- **Modalities of participation of a representative delegation of Belarusian democratic forces in the work of the Assembly:** heard a presentation by the Director of Committees - Democracy and Rule of Law, Sonia Sirtori; took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly and approved the proposals for the implementation of paragraph 12.3 of Resolution 2530 (2024), subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report (Appendix 6);
- **Follow-up to the Reykjavík Summit:** heard a presentation by the Director of Committees - Human Dignity and Sustainable Development, Louise Barton, and took note of the information provided;
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2025:** approved the proposals contained in the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat (Appendix 7);
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the shortlist made by the Selection Panel at its meeting in Prague on 27 August 2024, consisting of (in alphabetical order): Akif Gurbanov (Azerbaijan), María Corina Machado (Venezuela) and Babutsa Pataraiia (Georgia);
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:* authorised Mr Lulzim Basha (Albania, EPP/CD), in his capacity as rapporteur for follow-up on “Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine”, to participate in a hearing of the Sub-committee on Europe of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States, in Washington (United States), between the 16 and the 30 September 2024 (date to be confirmed), at no cost to the Assembly;

III. Prizes

➤ **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**

Meeting in Prague, on 27 August 2024, the selection panel of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, which rewards outstanding civil society action in defence of human rights in Europe and beyond, announced the shortlist for the 2024 Award. In alphabetical order:

Akif Gurbanov, Azerbaijan
María Corina Machado, Venezuela
Babutsa Pataraiia, Georgia

The overall winner of the 2024 Prize is due to be announced at the opening of PACE's Autumn plenary session in Strasbourg on 30 September.

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

➤ On 9 September 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**:

. held a hearing on *Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Latvia, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Jānis Sārts, Director, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Riga, and Mr David Agranovich, Director, Global Threat Disruption, Meta, California, United States of America (online);

. held a hearing on *Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, EC/DA), with the participation of Ms Su Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Jo Cox Foundation (United Kingdom).

➤ On 10 September 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**:

. held an exchange of views, on *The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation and Belarus*, in the context of the follow-up to Resolution 2541 (2024), Rapporteur for follow-up : Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, (Iceland, SOC) and on *Sanctions against persons on the "Kara-Murza list"*, in the context of the follow-up to Resolution 2542 (2024), Rapporteur for follow-up : Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, (Estonia, ALDE), with the participation of Mr Vladimir Kara-Murza, Founding Chairman of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom, Vice-president of the Free Russia Foundation, Václav Havel Human Rights Prize Winner 2022;

. held a hearing on *Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, in the context of the follow-up to Resolution 2556 (2024), and Recommendation 2279 (2024), former Rapporteur: Mr. Davor Ivo Stier, (Croatia, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Markiyan Kliuchkovskiy, Executive Director, Register of Damage for Ukraine, The Hague, Netherlands, Mr Jörg Polakiewicz, Director, Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law, Council of Europe and Ms Jessica H. Kim, Special Prosecutor for the Crime of Aggression, U.S. Department of Justice, ICPA, EUROJUST, The Hague, Netherlands;

. held a hearing on *Private military companies, mercenaries, foreign fighters and their impact on human rights*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr. Andrea Orlando, (Italy, SOC), with the participation of Dr Federica Saini Fasanotti, Senior Associate Fellow Italian Institute for International Political Studies, Milan, (Italy), Professor Antonios Tzanakopoulos, Professor of Public International Law at the Faculty of Law and Fellow in Law, St Anne's College, University of Oxford (United Kingdom) and Dr Matt Pollard, Legal Adviser, ICRC, Switzerland;

. held a hearing on the *Update of the Venice Commission Rule of Law Checklist*, with the participation of Mr Kaarlo Heikki Tuori, Honorary President of the Venice Commission and Mr Serhiy Holovaty, Chair of the Sub-Commission on the Rule of Law of the Venice Commission

➤ On 11 September 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 honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina – recent developments in the country*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA) and Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski (North Macedonia, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Nikola Špirić (SNSD), first Deputy Speaker of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms Darijana Filipović (HDZ BiH), second Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, member of the delegation of Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the PACE and Ms Sabina Čudić (Trojka), member of the delegation of Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the PACE;
- . held an exchange of views on *The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Hungary* - follow-up of the opinion of the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (Venice Commission) on Act LXXXVIII of 2023 on the Protection of National Sovereignty (CDL-AD(2024)001), in the context of a report prepared by Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) and Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), with the participation of Mr Michael Frendo, member of the Venice Commission (online).

➤ On 12 September 2024, in Paris, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**:

- . held an exchange of views on *Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Maryna Bardina (Ukraine, ALDE) with the participation of Mr Saša Gavrić, Gender Adviser, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR);
- . held a hearing on *Preventing and combating gender discrimination in health*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Camilla Fabricius (Denmark, SOC), with the participation of Ms Melanie Hyde, Gender, Equity and Human Rights Technical Officer, World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe and Ms Marina Kvaskoff, epidemiologist and tenured scientist, French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM);
- . held an exchange of views on the activities of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), with the participation of Mr Erik Adell Hellström, Chair of the CDADI.

➤ On 12 September 2024, in Lisbon, the **Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development)**:

- . held a hearing on *Portuguese approaches on sustainable energy for mobility and housing – from a general perspective to concrete measures*, with the participation of Mr Jorge Delgado, former Secretary of State for Infrastructure and Secretary of State for Mobility – Main national challenges in terms of sustainable mobility and the Portuguese policies to address them ; Mr Nelson Lage, President of ADENE (National Energy Agency) – ADENE action for the energy transition ; Mr Miguel Gaspar, former Councillor at the Lisbon City Council – Sustainable development challenges facing cities, the example of Lisbon ; Ms Maria Manuela Alvares, Councillor of Matosinhos on Strategy to decarbonize Matosinhos by 2030 in terms of housing and the concrete actions taken ; Mr João Crispim, Fundação Mestre Casais (Engineer) – Concrete measures for sustainable mobility and housing ; Mr Vladimiro Feliz, Engineer, Director of Ceii's Collaborative Laboratory – New technologies, products and services to accelerate cities' transition towards carbon neutrality.

➤ On 13 September 2024, in Lisbon, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**:

- . held a hearing on *“Long Covid” and access to the right to health*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Joan B Soriano, Medical Epidemiologist, Servicio de Neumología, Hospital Universitario de la Princesa – UAM, Madrid, Spain and Ms Chantal Britt, Long Covid Europe (European Network of Long Covid patient organisations);
- . held a hearing on *The humanitarian situation of (mainly) children and women in Gaza, the West Bank and in Israel*, in the context of the report prepared by Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), with the participation of Mr Willy Bergogné, Director, Save the Children Europe ; Ms Claire Nicolet and Mr Jason Rizzo, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) / Doctors Without Borders ; Mr David Wightwick, Chief Executive Officer, UK-Med.;

- A PACE delegation carried out a pre-electoral mission to Chisinau on 17-18 September 2024 ahead of the presidential and republican constitutional referendum in the Republic of Moldova (20 October 2024).
- A PACE delegation carried out a pre-electoral mission to Tbilisi on 23-24 September 2024 ahead of the parliamentary elections in Georgia (26 October 2024).

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

➤ The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Republic of Moldova

Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) and **Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica** (Latvia, 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 the Republic of Moldova on **1-3 July 2024**.

➤ Public regulation of the freedom of expression on digital platforms

Ms Valentina Grippo (Italy, ALDE), rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Dublin, Ireland, on **16-18 July 2024**.

➤ Ad hoc Sub-Committee to carry out a fact-finding visit to Sicily (Italy)

Mr Paul Gavan (Ireland, UEL), Chairperson of the *Ad hoc* Sub-Committee in charge of carrying out a fact-finding visit to Sicily (Italy) of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, led a delegation of four members to Sicily **from 16 to 18 September 2024**. The delegation has been mandated by the Committee to look into the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, including in hotspot, especially in Lampedusa, in Catania and its surroundings. For this purpose, the delegation met with all relevant stakeholders, both institutional and non-institutional, including many civil society representatives.

➤ Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 12th report

Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Warsaw, Poland on **17 and 18 September 2024**.

VI. Other activities of members of the Assembly

Mr Julian Pahlke (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons* on “Missing migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers – a call to clarify their fate,” held a meeting with the General Secretariat of INTERPOL in Lyon (France) on **7 July 2024**. He will also participate in the 27th session of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearance (CED) to address members of the UN Committee about the draft report, as part of the CED General Comment No.1 on enforced disappearances in the context of migration at the Palais Wilson, Geneva (Switzerland) on **27 September 2024**; meeting between the rapporteur and the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions at the Palais Wilson, Geneva (Switzerland).

Mr Andi-Lucian Cristea (Romania, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media* on “Risks and opportunities of the Metaverse” participated in the Augmented World Expo (AWE) Asia 2024, in Singapore, on **26-28 August 2024**.

Ms Luz Martinez Seijo (Spain, SOC), Chairperson, and **Mr Andries Gryffroy** (Belgium, NR), Vice-Chairperson, of the *Sub-Committee on Culture, Education and Democratic Values* of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, participated in the 7th Edition of the heritage Forum of Central Europe, in Krakow, Poland, on **4-5 September 2024**.

Lord Simon Russell (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons* on “A shared European approach to address migrant smuggling”, was invited to present the main recommendations of the draft resolution and the draft recommendation (to be put to a vote during PACE fourth part-session) at the 2nd international conference on migrant smuggling organised under the auspices of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), in co-operation with the Office of the Special representative on migration and refugees in Strasbourg on **10 and 11 September 2024**.

Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), Chairperson of the *Sub-Committee on Youth and the society of the future of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, participated online in the Consultative meeting on the integration of a youth perspective, in Strasbourg, on **19-20 September 2024**.

VII. Cooperation with the Venice Commission

➤ On **11 September 2024 in Paris**, the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)* requested an opinion of the Venice Commission on Act XVII of 2024 on the Amendment of Laws related to Justice Matters in Hungary.

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

- . **5 September 2024 - Paris:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **6 September 2024 - Paris:** *Bureau of the Assembly*
- . **9 September 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
- . **9 September 2024 – Edinburgh, (United Kingdom):** *Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*
- . **10 September 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*
- . **11 September 2023 - Paris:** *Honouring of Obligations and Commitments (Monitoring Committee)*
- . **12 September 2024 - Paris:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*
- . **12 September 2024 - Lisbon:** *Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development)*
- . **13 September 2024 - Lisbon:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Paris*
- . **16 September 2024 – Paris:** *Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights, Paris*
- . **29 September 2024 - Strasbourg:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **30 September 2024 - Strasbourg:** *Bureau of the Assembly*

Appendix 1 – draft agenda – Fourth part session of the parliamentary Assembly



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

<https://pace.coe.int>



Doc. 16033 prov1
23 September 2024

Fourth part of the 2024 Ordinary Session (30 September - 4 October 2024)

Draft agenda¹

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 6 September 2024. Updated on 18 September 2024, under the authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly, to reflect 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

Thursday: 15:00-16:00

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: 14:00-15:00

Political groups

Monday: 09:30-11:30

Monday: 17:30-19:30

Wednesday: 08:30-10:00

Monday 30 September 2024

Sitting No. 24 (11:30-13:00)

1. Opening of the part-session


- 1.1. Statement by the President
- 1.2. Examination of credentials
- 1.3. Election of a Vice-President of the Assembly in respect of Belgium and San Marino
- 1.4. Changes in the membership of committees
- 1.5. Request(s) for current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure
 - 1.5.1. Urgent procedure debate: "Deteriorating situation of human rights, rule of law and democracy in Azerbaijan"
 - 1.5.2. Urgent procedure debate: "Missing persons due to the war of aggression of the Russian federation against Ukraine: prisoners of war and civilians in captivity"
 - 1.5.3. Urgent procedure debate: "The emergency healthcare and humanitarian situation of women and children in Gaza"
- 1.6. Adoption of the agenda

2. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize (12:00-13:00)

- 2.1. Statement by Mr Vladimir KARA-MURZA, 2022 Prize winner
- 2.2. 2024 Prize award ceremony²

Sitting No. 25 (15:30-17:30)

3. Progress report

- 3.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. ...)
 -  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 30 September, 12:00)

4. Debate

- 4.1. The Council of Europe Development Bank: implementing the Reykjavik Declaration
 - ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Ms Eka SEPASHVILI (Georgia, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 16042)
 - ☐ Statement by:
 - o Mr Carlo MONTICELLI, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank
 -  List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 30 September, 12:00)
 -  Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 30 September, 11:00)
 -  Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 16042)

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

Tuesday 1 October 2024

Sitting No. 26 (10:00-13:00)

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


5.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

6. Debate

6.1. Propaganda and freedom of information in Europe

☐ Presentation by:

o Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 16034)


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 30 September, 16:30)

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

⚖ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16034)

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

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

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 30 September, 16:30)

Sitting No. 27 (15:30-20:00)

8. [Possibly] Elections (2nd round) (16:00-19:00)

8.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

9. Joint debate

9.1. A shared European approach to address migrant smuggling

☐ Presentation by:

o Lord Simon RUSSELL (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 16032)


9.2. Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – A call to clarify their fate

☐ Presentation by:

o Mr Julian PAHLKE (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 16037)

☐ Statement by:

o Mr Michael O'FLAHERTY, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

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

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

⚖ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 16032)


⚖ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 16037)

10. Debate

10.1. Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor – Ukraine once again faces the threat of genocide

☐ Presentation by:

o Mr Knut ABRAHAM (Germany, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 16028)

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

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

⚖ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16028)

11. Debate

11.1. The situation in Iran and the protection of Iranian human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Max LUCKS (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Pol ([Doc. 16035](#))
 - Ms Mariia MEZENTSEVA-FEDORENKO (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Ega ([Doc. ...](#))
- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 1 October, 12:00)
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 30 September, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 16035](#))


Sitting No. 28 (10:00-13:00)


12. Debate


12.1. The detention and conviction of Julian Assange and their chilling effects on human rights

☐ Presentation by:

o Ms Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR (Iceland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 16040)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 1 October, 19:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 1 October, 10:30)


 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16040)

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

13.1. 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: Tuesday 1 October, 19:00)

Sitting No. 29 (15:30-20:00)

14. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure

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


16. Debate


16.1. The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina


☐ Presentation by:

o Mr Zsolt NÉMETH (Hungary, EC/DA), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 16039)

o Mr Aleksandar NIKOLOSKI (North Macedonia, EPP/CD), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 16039)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 2 October, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 1 October, 16:00)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16039)


Thursday 3 October 2024

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

17. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure

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


18.1. Mr Timčo MUCUNSKI, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Republic of North Macedonia

 Questions (deadline for registration: Wednesday 2 October, 19:00)


Sitting No. 31 (16:00-20:00)


19. Debate


19.1. Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and queer women in Europe

 Presentation by:

o Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO (Monaco, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 16043)


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 3 October, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 2 October, 16:30)


 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16043)


20. Debate


20.1. Protecting the human rights and improving the lives of sex workers and victims of sexual exploitation

 Presentation by:

o Mr Fourat BEN CHIKHA (Belgium, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 16044)


 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 3 October, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 2 October, 16:30)


 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 16044)


21. Debate


21.1. Guaranteeing the human right to food

 Presentation by:

o Mr Simon MOUTQUIN (Belgium, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 16041)

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 3 October, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 2 October, 16:30)

 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 16041)

Friday 4 October 2024

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

22. Debate

22.1. Risks and opportunities of the metaverse

□ Presentation by:

o Mr Andi-Lucian CRISTEA (Romania, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Cult ([Doc. 16031](#))

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 3 October, 19:00)

⊕ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 3 October, 10:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 16031](#))

23. Free debate

📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 3 October, 19:00)

24. Progress report (continued)

25. Closure of the part-session

Appendix 2 – References and transmissions to committees

A. References to committees

- *Role of the Council of Europe in countering the sanctions' evasion and creating a Register of entities assisting the Russian Federation in circumventing restrictive measures*, motion for a resolution, Doc. 16014: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*;
(to be taken into account in the follow-up to the reports on “Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine”, Doc. 15998, Resolution 2556 (2024), Recommendation 2279 (2024) and “The role of sanctions in countering the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine”, Doc. 16000, Resolution 2557 (2024))
- *Fighting back against transnational repression*, motion for a resolution, Doc. 16017: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*.

B. Request for an extension of reference

- *Analysis and guidelines to guarantee the right to housing and to decent housing*, motion for a resolution, Doc. 15566 (Reference 4670 of 10 October 2022 – validity: 10 October 2024): extension until 10 October 2025.

Appendix 3 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the Presidential election and the Constitutional Referendum in the Republic of Moldova (20 October 2024)

Chairperson / Présidente : Ms / Mme Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande

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

Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU, Cyprus / Chypre

Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche

Ms / Mme Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande *

Ms / Mme Petra BAYR, Austria / Autriche

Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Norway / Norvège

Ms / Mme Sascha FAXE, Denmark / Danemark

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Ms / Mme Aurora FLORIDIA, Italy / Italie

Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye

Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal

Mr / M. Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES, Spain / Espagne

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

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

Mr / M. Pablo HISPÁN, Spain / Espagne

Mr / M. Jan Filip LIBICKI, Poland / Pologne

Mr / M. Chris SAID, Malta / Malte *

ZZ

ZZ

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Mr / M. Christian BUCHMANN, Austria / Autriche

Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce

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

Ms / Mme Belén HOYO, Spain / Espagne

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

Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine*

Mr / M. Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne

Mr / M. Andrew PERCY, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Mr / M. José María SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA, Spain / Espagne

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Ms / Mme Pauline LATHAM, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Mr / M. Armen GEVORGYAN, Armenia / Arménie

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

Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie*

Mr / M. Petri HONKONEN, Finland / Finlande

Ms / Mme Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA, Ukraine

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Ms / Mme Lucia PLAVÁKOVÁ, Slovak Republic / République Slovaque

Ms / Mme Rian VOGELS, Netherlands / Pays Bas

Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie

Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye

Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse

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

Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL, Spain / Espagne *

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Ms / Mme Nina KASIMATI, Greece / Grèce

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

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

Ms / Mme Zanda KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA, Latvia / Lettonie - EPP/CD *

Accompanying person

XXX, accompanying Mr Jan Filip LIBICKI

Secretariat of political groups / Secrétariat des groupes politiques

Ms / Mme Marianna NTALLA, SOC

* pre-electoral mission / mission préélectorale

Appendix 4 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the Parliamentary elections in Georgia (26 October 2024)

Chairperson / Président : Mr / M. Iulian BULAI, Romania / Roumanie

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

Mr / M. Frank SCHWABE, Germany / Allemagne *

Ms / Mme Anna-Kristiina MIKKONEN, Finland / Finlande

Mr / M. Yves CRUCHTEN, Luxembourg

Mr / M. Andrea ORLANDO, Italy / Italie

Ms / Mme Aurora FLORIDIA, Italy / Italie

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

Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France

Mr / M. Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES, Spain / Espagne

Ms / Mme Aysu BANKOĞLU, Türkiye

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Ms / Mme Blerina GJYLAMETI, Albania / Albanie

Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye

Mr / M. Christophe CHAILLOU, France

Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Normay / Norvège

Mr / M. Namik TAN, Türkiye

Ms / Mme Sibel ARSLAN, Switzerland / Suisse

Ms / Mme Franziska KERSTEN, Germany / Allemagne

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

Ms / Mme Boriána ÅBERG, Sweden / Suède

Ms / Mme Deborah BERGAMINI, Italy / Italie

Mr / M. Christophe BRICO, Monaco

Ms / Mme Linda Hofstad HELLELAND, Norway / Norvège

Mr / M. Pablo HISPÁN, Spain / Espagne

Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche

Mr / M. Nicos TORNARITIS, Cyprus / Chypre

Mr / M. Emanuelis ZINGERIS, Lithuania / Lituanie*

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

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

Mr / M. Chris SAID, Malta / Malte

Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce

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

Mr / M. Simone BILLI, Italy / Italie *

Lord David BLENKATHRA, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Ms / Mme Olena KHOMENKO, Ukraine

Mr / M. Fabio PIETRELLA, Italy / Italie

Mr / M. Armen GEVORGYAN, Armenia / Arménie

Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Mr / M. Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne

Mr / M. José María SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA, Spain / Espagne

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

Mr / M. Iulian BULAI, Romania / Roumanie *

Mr / M. Olivier BITZ, France

Ms / Mme Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO, Monaco

Ms / Mme Yevheniia KRAVCHUK, Ukraine

Mr / M. Ryszard PETRU, Poland / Pologne

Substitutes / Suppléant-e-s

Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie

Ms / Mme Rian VOGELS, Netherlands / Pays Bas

Ms / Mme Lucia PLAVÁKOVÁ, Slovak Republic / République Slovaque

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse

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

Ms / Mme Nina KASIMATI, Greece / Grèce

Mr / M. Andrej HUNKO, Germany / Allemagne *

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

Mr / M. Claude KERN, France – ALDE

Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal – SOC *

Accompanying person / personne accompagnante

Lady Tara BLENCATHRA, accompanying/accompagne Lord David BLENCATHRA

Secretariat of political groups / Secrétariat des groupes politiques

Ms / Mme Denise O'Hara, EPP/CD

*Pre electoral mission / mission préélectorale

Appendix 5 – List of members of the ad hoc committee to observe the Early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (27 October 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

Ms / Mme Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande_SOC

Venice Commission / Commission de Venise

Mr / M. Michael JANSSEN, Legal Advisor / Conseiller juridique

Ms / Mme Katharina PABEL, Austria / Autriche, representative of the Venice Commission / représentante de la Commission de Venise

Appendix 6 - Modalities of participation of a representative delegation of Belarusian democratic forces in the work of the Assembly

Proposals for the implementation of paragraph 12.3 of Resolution 2530 (2024)

With a view to implementing paragraph 12.3 of Resolution 2530 (2024) on *A democratic future for Belarus*, it is proposed that the Bureau decide to invite the Belarusian democratic forces to designate a delegation to participate in the work of the Assembly and its bodies, according to the modalities and conditions set out below:

- the delegation of the Belarusian democratic forces shall be composed of 3 representatives and 3 substitutes to be designated by the Coordination Council amongst its members;
- the delegation shall be composed to ensure a fair representation of the political parties, groups or factions within the Coordination Council² and to include at least the same percentage of the under-represented sex as is present in the Coordination Council;
- the Coordination Council shall transmit to the President of the Assembly no less than one week before the opening of the session the list of the members of its delegation, appointed for the duration of the entire session. The list should be submitted to the Bureau for approval and subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;
- as a transitional measure for 2024, following elections held in May 2024, the Coordination Council shall transmit the list of members of its delegation to the President of the Assembly no less than one week before the opening of the first part-session of the Assembly following the Bureau decision as ratified by the Assembly through its Progress report;
- following future elections to the Coordination Council, appointments to the Assembly shall be made within six months of the election. The existing delegation shall expire at the opening of the first sitting of the Assembly or meeting of the Standing Committee following the appointment of the new delegation by the Coordination Council or following the expiry of the six months' period after the election date;
- members of the delegation shall have the right to participate in the work of committees (including sub-committees and ad hoc sub-committees) and networks during part-sessions, with the exception of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, and the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights;
- members of the delegation participating in the above-mentioned meetings may speak if authorised by the chairperson. They shall not have the right to vote;
- secretaries of the delegation may attend the meetings of committees of the Assembly, except those of the Monitoring Committee, the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, and the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights;
- members of the delegation of Belarusian democratic forces may participate in the work of political groups according to the conditions established by the groups;
- the Bureau shall take stock of the implementation of this decision in one year time, or before should it be considered necessary. This may include modalities for the presence of the representative delegation of Belarusian democratic forces in the Assembly chamber.

² It should be noticed that the [Protocol for Cooperation between National Leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the Coordination Council of Belarus, the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus, and the Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya](#), signed in Vilnius on 4 August 2024, recognises the competence of the Coordination Council of participating in international inter-parliamentary cooperation (paragraph 3.1.5).

Appendix 7 - Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2025

Monday 27 January, 8 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 31 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 6 March, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 7 April, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 11 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 22 May, 3 pm, Malta	Bureau
Friday 23 May, 9 am, Malta	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 23 June, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 27 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 5 September, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 29 September, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 3 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 20 or 27 November, 3 pm, Chişinău	Bureau
Friday 21 or 28 November, 9.30 am, Chişinău	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Friday 12 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau