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# CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

**presented by**

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The Presidents of Parliament from the 46 member States of the Council of Europe and beyond gathered in Rome on 15-16 October 2026.

Against the backdrop of war on the European continent and conflicts in the Middle East, and at a time of profound and rapid transformation, we are facing interconnected challenges. Hybrid threats put to the test the resilience of democratic institutions, artificial intelligence is reshaping the world of work, and the rules-based international order is under pressure. The common dimension is that these phenomena directly affect our societies, rights and democracies – and Parliaments must stand resolute as the guardians of our shared values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In so doing, we continue to stand with Ukraine.

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## Theme 1: Resilient democracies: united against hybrid threats

Increasingly sophisticated and pervasive hybrid threats and external attacks jeopardise the daily functioning of parliaments, electoral cycles, institutions and societies. Foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) affects all our countries.

We are convinced that the answer lies in strengthening our cooperation, in standing united against those who want to divide us, and in sharing good practices. Democratic resilience requires international solidarity.

Parliaments must lead through legislative action and policy innovation, adopting and updating laws to address evolving hybrid threats and FIMI while upholding the fundamental freedoms as set out in the European Convention of Human Rights. For the strength of our response will lie not only in our ability to defend ourselves, but in doing so while protecting human rights and the rule of law.

We must put in place clear and firm regulations on social media, paying particular attention to protecting vulnerable groups and public figures, especially women, who are disproportionately targeted by digital attacks. This requires broad consultation with all stakeholders including online platforms ensuring their accountability.

It is our duty to protect the integrity of the electoral process, even in times of crisis, and to restore the trust of citizens in free and fair elections and in the parliaments that represent them.

Clear, reliable and real-time information must be provided to our citizens to counter FIMI, working closely with civil society, journalists and all relevant stakeholders.

Early and on-going education in democratic citizenship, media literacy and critical thinking are essential components of democratic security.

We must share our experiences and good practices between parliaments, provide training for our members and staff, and adopt clear rules on financing of political parties to ensure a level playing field.

Democratic resilience is not only a question of laws: it is forged every day in our schools, workplaces and societies. And it concerns the whole of society: public institutions, civil society, the private sector, independent media, academic institutions, and ordinary citizens.

The Council of Europe's New Democratic Pact for Europe will provide the blueprint for the way forward.

**Theme 2: Artificial Intelligence and the labour market**

Faced with the profound challenges posed by the impact of artificial intelligence in the labour market, we must ensure that technological progress goes hand in hand with social progress and the protection of fundamental rights. People and their dignity must always remain at the centre of all transformations. It is our responsibility, as legislators, to ensure that this is the case.

We must guarantee that workers can navigate this transition with confidence rather than fear. This means investment in lifelong learning and re-skilling, professional development and, above all, in the younger generations. Young Europeans must be given the means to become AI literate - so that they learn not only to use AI tools, but to question them and so be fully prepared for the labour market of tomorrow. We should invest in the competences that only human beings can bring to work.

Genuine social dialogue is key. Workers and their representatives must be involved from the outset, before AI systems that significantly affect them are introduced. Their participation is not an obstacle to innovation but rather an asset.

We must promote clear rules, ensure that decisions remain subject to human responsibility and safeguard workers against undue surveillance and algorithmic discrimination - in particular as regards gender, disability and ethnic background.

And we must ensure that the benefits of AI-driven productivity are shared fairly, so that innovation creates opportunities for levelling up, rather than deepening inequalities.

No State can face alone the challenges artificial intelligence poses to the world of work. We need to coordinate our efforts.

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence provides an international legal framework for addressing AI-related risks while protecting our basic values. States should sign, ratify and fully implement this ground-breaking instrument.

Our ambition and promise to ourselves is to be a society capable of putting AI at the service of our citizens, improving the quality of life of all.

**Theme 3: Renewing the rules-based international order: the role of parliaments in addressing and responding to contemporary crises**

The rules-based international order is today being put into question. National parliaments must defend it through scrutiny, legislation, treaty ratification and implementation of international court judgments. Upholding human rights and the rule of law at home is inseparable from defending the rule of law and peace internationally. The Council of Europe and its unique European Convention on Human Rights system demonstrate how international rules can be embedded in and strengthen democracies, while contributing to peace and stability. We must safeguard the integrity and independence of international courts.

The international order must become more agile and responsive to hybrid threats, climate and health crises and foreign interference. We call for the development of norms in areas such as environmental protection and foreign interference.

On a regional and global level, we must strengthen co-operation and partnership between international parliamentary assemblies in all areas of common interest not least election observation. We must deepen our parliamentary engagement concerning the Western Balkans, where European integration remains crucial to the stability and security of our continent.

Multilateral institutions must be more representative and inclusive. We stand ready to support the United Nations system in this direction, including with regard to its Security Council. A renewed order must recognise national parliaments' contribution to multilateralism: bringing citizens' concerns into international fora and ensuring that international rules are better understood and translated into tangible action.

Credibility requires the unconditional, consistent and universal application of international rules. We must reject double standards and ensure accountability for all breaches of international law. The rules-based order protects all nations and human beings, or it protects no one.

National and international parliamentary assemblies must propose new mechanisms to address shared challenges and turn commitments into action. We must uphold Ukraine's right to a just and lasting peace and make accountability mechanisms fully operational. To renew the rules-based international order and make it more responsive and effective, we must invest more in international justice and multilateral institutions.

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Parliaments have a crucial role to play in driving this renewal. As Presidents of Parliaments, we recognise our responsibility and duty to lead the way.