

Elections Division

AS/ELECT/(2026) 2

ACTIVITIES OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN THE ELECTORAL FIELD (05 March 2026 – 11 June 2026)

Texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly

- 21 April 2026, Strasbourg: the Assembly adopted [Resolution 2646 \(2026\)](#) and [Recommendation 2305 \(2026\)](#) on **Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy** (Rapporteur: Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, ECPA) ([Doc. 16363](#) of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy)

Observation of elections by PACE, with legal support from the Venice Commission

- **12 April 2026:** observation of the parliamentary elections in **Hungary** (pre-electoral mission 30-31 March, [statement](#) / [statement](#) of the IEOM on 13 April 2026)
- **19 April 2026:** observation of early parliamentary elections in **Bulgaria** ([statement](#) of the IEOM on 20 April 2026)
- **7 June 2026:** observation of the parliamentary elections in **Armenia** (pre-electoral mission 11-12 May, [statement](#) / [statement](#) of the IEOM of 8 June 2026)
- **7 June 2026:** observation of the early elections to the **Kosovo*** Assembly ([statement](#) of the delegation of 8 June 2026)

Activities of PACE Committees

- 20 May 2026, Paris: the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** unanimously adopted a [report](#), including a draft resolution, on **Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence** (Rapporteur Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD).

Conferences and seminars

- 28-29 April 2026, Paris: joint debate “Towards Trusted and Inclusive Electoral Processes: The Role of Observers, organized by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, within the framework of the New Democratic Pact for Europe. The joint debate culminated in the adoption of the [Paris Call to Action](#), which called on Council of Europe member States to recognise the role of domestic and international observation in reinforcing transparency, integrity and public trust; to provide strong legislative frameworks for domestic observation; to systematically invite international observation missions; to ensure meaningful follow-up to observation findings; and to support the adoption of a specific Council of Europe instrument to guarantee, protect and promote electoral observation

* Throughout this document, all reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

PACE electoral co-operation programmes

Albania	Strengthening Elections Integrity in Albania	
	18-22 May 2026, Tirana, Albania	A BRIDGE facilitator accreditation training was held comprising two modules: BRIDGE Showcase “Building Institutional Excellence” (2 days), for 15 mid- and senior-level participants and “Introduction to Election Administration” (3 days) for 25 participants. The training aimed to strengthen institutional capacity in electoral training and upon completion, resulted in the accreditation of two CEC staff members as BRIDGE facilitators.
	25 May 2026, Tirana, Albania	The consultative roundtable “Strengthening Elections’ Integrity in Albania” was organised with support from the Council of Europe and other international bodies. It brought together the CEC, international partners, embassies, international organisations, development partners and Albanian civil society representatives to exchange views on the architecture of training and education within the CEC and to share perspectives on strengthening the CEC’s training and education functions, improving governance arrangements, and supporting the development of a modern and sustainable electoral learning system. A comparative analytical paper on international models of election training and education systems served as a reference for the discussion.
	30-31 May 2026, Tirana, Albania	The CEC organised a two-day Workshop “Electoral Administration Trainings: Challenges and Practical Solutions-Dialogue with trainers”. This analytical dialogue gathered around 100 electoral administration trainers for a review of the 11 May 2025 Parliamentary Elections with the aim to collect field feedback on training challenges, identify gaps, and document good practices, in line with OSCE/ODIHR recommendations for a standardised cascade training curriculum and improved training materials. Participants assessed the effectiveness of current methodologies, curricula and manuals, and covered the development of standardised guidelines to strengthen consistency, quality, and professionalism in electoral training.
	Support to Electoral Cycle in Albania – EU-CoE JP	
	June 2026 (date tbc), Tirana, Albania	A workshop to launch the e-Consultation mechanism will be held in Tirana, bringing together representatives from the CEC, civil society, and media organisations to discuss the platform’s architecture and functionalities. This mechanism is designed to institutionalise a structured and regular dialogue between the CEC, civil society, and media organisations, particularly in the context of electoral policy development. Its aim is to foster the effective participation and contributions of CSOs throughout electoral processes, ensuring an inclusive and transparent approach. The consultative mechanism supported by the e-consultation tool will be formalised through a joint declaration endorsed by the CEC, civil society,

		and media organisations, establishing an ongoing commitment to a more integrated stakeholder engagement strategy that enhances transparency and institutional accountability.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9 – 11 March 2026, Tarčin/Sarajevo	A Workshop was held to support the development of the Electoral Trainings Catalogue of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEC BiH). The workshop forms part of the broader process of establishing a functional and sustainable Centre for Education within the CEC BiH, with the Catalogue serving as a key planning and coordination tool for electoral training. The Catalogue was delivered in April and provides a structured overview of training needs for different electoral stakeholders and a training syllabus with training activities conducted during election and non-election periods.
	23 – 25 March 2026, Mostar	A Training for the CEC BiH staff was organised to strengthen their ability to recognise, respond to, prevent and sanction hate speech during the election period. Participants explored how to identify hate speech, understand the role of prejudice and stereotypes, and assess how hate speech and hate crimes affect public safety. The training also covered the legal framework, including national legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights.
	15 April 2026, online	The Terms of Reference for the Centre for Education within the CEC BiH drafted by a Council of Europe international expert and local consultant were delivered. The ToR define the functional model of the Centre, including its mandate, objectives, organisational structure, scope of activities, and phased implementation approach. The ToR and other documents delivered for the establishment of the Centre will be discussed at the upcoming Roundtable.
	17 – 19 April 2026, Neum	The fourth and final module of the first Council of Europe Academy for Women Candidates was completed. Twenty women from Bosnia and Herzegovina who plan to run in elections, or who have previously run but were not elected, completed the Academy, a unique training programme designed to strengthen women's participation in political life. Through four modules, participants explored key aspects of political engagement, including understanding the <u>electoral process and gender quotas</u> , <u>building authentic political narratives</u> , <u>strengthening media and public speaking skills</u> , and responding to digital violence against women in politics. The final module focused on online harassment and digital violence targeting women in politics.
	21 – 23 April 2026, Neum	Training on election-related public procurement was held for 16 CEC BiH staff who participated in the large-scale public procurement of new technologies for the upcoming general elections in October 2026. Participants discussed practical challenges related to planning, contracting and implementation of procurement procedures, based on lessons learned during the procurement related to the

		introduction of election technologies that proved to be one of the biggest challenges the institution experienced.
	12 – 14 May 2026, Neum	A two-day training for media professionals dedicated to reporting on electoral processes was attended by 20 participants from media outlets in different regions in BiH. The Training aimed to support journalists and editors in understanding the Electoral Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the latest amendments, the introduction of new technologies and their implications for media work throughout the electoral process. Particular attention was paid to strengthening co-operation between media and key institutions involved in the electoral process, including the Central Election Commission, the Communications Regulatory Agency and the Press Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially in addressing growing challenges linked to Artificial Intelligence, disinformation and fake news. Due to the large interest, another training will be held in September.
Republic of Moldova	05 March 2026, Chisinau	A new e-course “Electoral Integrity”, aimed at supporting future electoral officials in preparing for the certification exam was launched on CICDE’s <u>e-learning platform</u> . The e-course developed by the CoE’s local consultant aims at supporting future electoral officials in preparing for the certification exam.
	19 March 2026, Chisinau	A <u>training session</u> for around 20 judges and prosecutors aimed at strengthening their skills in combating illegal political financing and vote buying was held covering key aspects of the Republic of Moldova’s revised electoral legislation, alongside practical ways and modern investigating methods for detecting and prosecuting illegal political financing and gathering evidence, including cryptocurrency transactions.
	02 April 2026, Chisinau	A <u>training session</u> for around 25 judges and prosecutors was held aiming at strengthening their knowledge of electoral-related contraventions, focusing on the legal and practical complexities surrounding misdemeanours that infringe political, labour and constitutional rights. Strong emphasis was placed on passive electoral corruption and the violation of regulations concerning the management of financial resources of political parties and electoral competitors, including the correct application of the Contravention Code relating to the mentioned aspects.
	08 May 2026, Chisinau	A <u>training session</u> for over 35 judges, prosecutors and electoral officials from the Republic of Moldova was held aimed at enhancing their ability to resolve electoral disputes. The training provided practical guidance on preliminary procedures, proportionality of measures applied by electoral authorities, and the limits of judicial oversight. The event supported ongoing progress in safeguarding electoral integrity, offering an important platform for connecting local judicial expertise with good legal standards.
	25-27 May 2026, Bologna, Italy	A three-day training session was organised to prepare four Moldovan experts and beneficiary institutions’ representatives to assess the CEC and CICDE strategic

		programmes, as well as to prepare the new programmes for 2027 – 2032, based on CoE's URSO methodology. Participants will receive practical instructions regarding the URSO methodology, strategic indicators, assessment techniques, design of roadmaps for annual evaluations, development of new strategic documents, strengthening capacity to support the beneficiaries' institutions in meeting CoE's standards and national legislation on planning and policy documents.
Ukraine	1 – 2 April 2026, Strasbourg, France	The <u>High-Level Dialogue-V “Good Democratic Governance in Ukraine: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward in Post-War Period”</u> , co-organised and facilitated by the Secretariats of the Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of local and regional authorities, and the Venice Commission, took place in Strasbourg HQ to discuss progress and agree on further actions to improve the legal framework on multilevel governance and post-war elections.
	28 – 29 April 2026, Paris, France	Facilitation of participation of Ms Alina Zahoruiko, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Committee, Chair of the Parliamentary Subcommittee on Elections, Referenda and other Forms of Direct Democracy of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on Organisation of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning, in the <u>Joint Debate “Towards Trusted and Inclusive Electoral Processes: The Role of Observers”</u> , co-organised by the PACE, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Venice Commission.
	5 May 2026, Kyiv, Ukraine	Participation in the <u>Steering Committee Meeting</u> on the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023 – 2026 to exchange on the results achieved in electoral domain and to outline further priority areas of Council of Europe electoral cooperation and support within the next Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2027 – 2030.
	3 – 5 June 2026, Bern, Switzerland	Onsite visit of the Ukrainian delegation (Central Election Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to Bern, Switzerland, for peer-to-peer exchanges with Swiss federal and cantonal authorities on election related matters and cooperation. The following topics/issues were in the focus of the exchanges: voting methods and out-of-country voting arrangements; State communication and information campaigns about electoral processes; combatting mis/disinformation in elections; ensuring the (cyber-)security and the integrity of the electoral process; diaspora political representation and engagement. The visit was organised by the PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Co-operation Division in cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.
	March – June 2026, Kyiv, Ukraine:	Provision of technical support and maintenance, as well as update of the “ <u>CEC: prosvita</u> ” online platform necessary to ensure due functioning of the platform and training courses and materials placed thereon.