



**Declassified<sup>1</sup>**

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20 March 2023

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## **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

### **Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment**

## **Minutes**

### **of the public hearing on “The right to a healthy environment and local democracy” held in Strasbourg on Wednesday, 25 January**

The Network **held** a public hearing on “The right to a healthy environment and local democracy”. **Mr Rik Daems** (Belgium, ALDE), **Chairperson of the Network**, opened the hearing and introduced the guest speakers:

- ✓ **Ms Maren Lambrecht**, Secretary of the Current Affairs Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- ✓ **Ms Alina Tatarenko**, Head of Division, Democratic Governance, DGII: Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe

**Ms Lambrecht** welcomed members on behalf of Mr Mathieu Mori, new Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, who, unfortunately, was unable to attend the meeting because he had many commitments related to his recent appointment. The Congress underlined the importance of the environment in its strategy for 2021-2026. It had held policy debates on preventive measures during its October 2022 session and called for closer co-operation between local governance units and neighbouring regions.

A series of recent documents by the Congress (the third volume of the [Human rights handbook for local and regional authorities](#), the children's booklet, “[How to make your town a better place](#)”, and the report on “[Smart cities and regions – prospects for a human rights-based governance approach](#)”) had been submitted to members. As the European Charter of Local Self-Government did not take account of the environment, a protocol was being prepared to make up for the shortcoming and promote green democracy at local level. For this purpose, the Congress had followed an approach starting out from the local level. It was working both with the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and with the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG).

**Ms Tatarenko** was pleased to be with the members of the Assembly network which followed the work of the CDDG. Alongside other issues, the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance provided direct and practical assistance on climate change. The CDDG had been tasked with drawing up a handbook on greening administration and was compiling examples of best practice that would be disseminated among all member states.

**Mr Grin** stressed the need to gather examples of best practice and referred to the town of Yverdon-les-Bains, which had just issued a climate plan setting out 70 measures to combat global warming through citizen participation. He asked about the level of co-operation with citizen councils.

**Mr Moutquin** stressed the importance of air and water quality. The local level would be the first to suffer the effects of global warming. There was also the issue of how to take account of extreme weather events that were set to become more frequent and more destructive. In addition, it was necessary to ensure a fair transition process based on solidarity so that the most vulnerable groups could seek refuge in air-conditioned public

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<sup>1</sup> The minutes were approved and declassified by the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment at its meeting on 17 March 2023.

buildings during heat waves, as was already the case in Spain. Strong national and European policies were needed on top of action by local authorities.

**The Chairperson** proposed that representatives of the city of Vancouver, which was a model green city, be invited to take part in the Network's discussions.

**Ms Lambrecht** told members about the [BePART civil participation forum](#) platform that could be accessed from the Council of Europe site. It gave examples of participation. The Congress was planning to hold a wide-ranging debate on reconstruction of towns and cities in the aftermath of extreme climate events and was drawing on the experience of Malmédy (Belgium) in this connection. Youth delegates would be taking part in the next session of the Congress. They had recently adopted their own action plan.

**Ms Tatarenko** invited members to take part in a forthcoming conference on greening of administration, which would be held during the Parliamentary Assembly's next part-session. Participatory democracy played a key role in combating manipulation of public opinion. Several proposals would be presented in the next GR-DEM report, which should be available at the end of February 2023. In terms of combating extreme events, the Centre of Expertise had set up the [ReBUS Resilience Building Strategies toolkit](#).

**The Chairperson** thanked the experts, whom he wished to invite regularly to the Network's discussions, and stressed the importance of local democracy. He had begun his career as a mayor.

## List of presence / Liste de présence 27.01.2023

### MEMBER STATES / ÉTATS MEMBRES

|   |               |                          |        |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Albania / Albanie                           |               |                          |        |
| Andorra / Andorre                           |               |                          |        |
| Armenia / Arménie                           | <b>Mr/M.</b>  | <b>Armen Gevorgyan</b>   | EC/DA  |
| Austria / Autriche                          | Mr/M.         | Stefan Schennach         | SOC    |
|   | Mr/M.         | Michel Reimon            | SOC    |
| Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan                    | <b>Ms/Mme</b> | <b>Sevinj Fataliyeva</b> | EC/DA  |
| Belgium / Belgique                          | <b>Mr/M.</b>  | <b>Rik Daems</b>         | ALDE   |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine | Ms/Mme        | Marina Pendeš            | EPP/CD |
|   | Mr/M.         | Saša Magazinović         | SOC    |
| Bulgaria / Bulgarie                         |               |                          |        |
| Croatia / Croatie                           | <b>Ms/Mme</b> | <b>Zdravka Bušić</b>     | EPP/CD |
| Cyprus / Chypre                             |               |                          |        |
| Czech Republic / République tchèque         |               |                          |        |
| Denmark / Danemark                          |               |                          |        |
| Estonia / Estonie                           | Mr/M.         | Urmis Reitelmann         | EC/DA  |
| Finland / Finlande                          | Ms/Mme        | Minna Reijonen           | EC/DA  |
| France                                      | Ms/Mme        | Liliana Tanguy           | ALDE   |
|   |               |                          |        |
| Georgia / Géorgie                           |               |                          |        |
| Germany / Allemagne                         | Ms/Mme        | Franziska Kersten        | SOC    |
| Greece / Grèce                              | Mr/M.         | George Papandreou        | SOC    |
| Hungary / Hongrie                           |               |                          |        |
| Iceland / Islande                           | <b>Mr/M.</b>  | <b>Bjarni Jónsson</b>    | UEL    |
| Ireland / Irlande                           | <b>Mr/M.</b>  | <b>Thomas Pringle</b>    | UEL    |
|   | Ms/Mme        | Róisín Garvey            | SOC    |
| Italy / Italie                              | Ms/Mme        | Maria Rizzotti           | EPP/CD |
| Latvia / Lettonie                           |               |                          |        |
| Liechtenstein                               | Mr/M.         | Peter Frick              | ALDE   |
| Lithuania / Lituanie                        | Mr/M.         | Arminas Lydeka           | ALDE   |
| Luxembourg                                  | Mr/M.         | Paul Galles              | EPP/CD |
| Malta / Malte                               |               |                          |        |

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|---|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Republic of Moldova /<br><i>République de Moldova</i> |               |                             |        |
| Monaco  | Mr/M.         | José Badia                  | EPP/CD |
| Montenegro / <i>Monténégro</i>                        | Mr/M.         | Miloš Konatar               | SOC    |
| Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>                         | Ms/Mme        | Margreet De Boer            | SOC    |
|   | Ms/Mme        | Agnes Mulder                | EPP/CD |
| North Macedonia /<br><i>Macédoine du Nord</i>         |               |                             |        |
| Norway / <i>Norvège</i>                               | Ms/Mme        | Linda Hofstad Helleland     | EPP/CD |
| Poland / <i>Pologne</i>                               | Ms/Mme        | Marta Kubiak                | EC/DA  |
|   | Ms/Mme        | Danuta Jazłowiecka          | EPP/CD |
| Portugal  | <b>Mr/M.</b>  | <b>Pedro Cegonho</b>        | SOC    |
| Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>                             | <b>Ms/Mme</b> | <b>Maria Gabriela Horga</b> | EPP/CD |
|   | Ms/Mme        | Alina Stefania Gorghiu      | EPP/CD |
| San Marino / <i>Saint-Marin</i>                       |               |                             |        |
| Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>                                |               |                             |        |
| Slovak Republic /<br><i>République slovaque</i>       |               |                             |        |
| Slovenia / <i>Slovénie</i>                            | Mr/M.         | Dean Premik                 | ALDE   |
| Spain / <i>Espagne</i>                                |               |                             |        |
| Sweden / <i>Suède</i>                                 |               |                             |        |
| Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>                           | <b>Mr/M.</b>  | <b>Jean-Pierre Grin</b>     | ALDE   |
|   | Mr/M.         | Olivier Français            | ALDE   |
| Türkiye   | Ms/Mme        | Emine Nur Günay             | NR     |
| Ukraine   | <b>Ms/Mme</b> | <b>Yuliia Ovchynnykova</b>  | ALDE   |
| United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>                   | Baroness      | Doreen E. Massey            | SOC    |

**OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS**

|                         |       |                      |  |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------------|--|
| Canada                  |       |                      |  |
| Israel / <i>Israël</i>  | Mr/M. | Yorai Lahav Hertzanu |  |
| Mexico / <i>Mexique</i> |       |                      |  |

**PARTNERS FOR DEMOCRACY / PARTENAIRES POUR LA DÉMOCRATIE**

|                                 |              |                      |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--|
| Jordan / <i>Jordanie</i>        |              |                      |  |
| Kyrgyzstan / <i>Kirghizstan</i> |              |                      |  |
| Morocco / <i>Maroc</i>          | <b>Mr/M.</b> | <b>Allal Amraoui</b> |  |
| Palestine                       |              |                      |  |

**PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY / PRÉSIDENT·E DE L'ASSEMBLÉE**

|  |       |          |     |
|--|-------|----------|-----|
| <b>EX-OFFICIO MEMBER /<br/>MEMBRE D'OFFICE</b> | Mr/M. | Tiny Kox | UEL |
|--|-------|----------|-----|

**PRESIDENTS OF POLITICAL GROUPS / PRÉSIDENT(E)S DES GROUPES POLITIQUES**

|  |       |                      |        |
|--|-------|----------------------|--------|
| <b>EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS /<br/>MEMBRES D'OFFICE</b> | Mr/M. | Frank Schwabe        | SOC    |
|  | Mr/M. | Aleksander Pociąg    | EPP/CD |
|  | Mr/M. | Ian Liddell-Grainger | EC/DA  |
|  | Mr/M. | Iulian Bulai         | ALDE   |
|  | Mr/M. | George Katrougalos   | UEL    |

**PACE COMMITTEES CONCERNED / COMMISSIONS DE L'APCE CONCERNÉES**

|  |              |                       |     |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Political Affairs /<br><i>Questions politiques</i> | <b>Mr/M.</b> | <b>Simon Moutquin</b> | SOC |
| Legal Affairs /<br><i>Questions juridiques</i>     | Mr/M.        | Ziya Altunyaldiz      | NR  |

|                               |               |                            |     |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Migration / <i>Migrations</i> | <b>Mr/M.</b>  | <b>Pierre-Alain Fridez</b> | SOC |
| Equality / <i>Égalité</i>     | <b>Ms/Mme</b> | <b>Edite Estrela</b>       | SOC |
| Culture                       | Ms/Mme        | Inka Hopsu                 | SOC |

**Bureau of the Committee on Social Affairs /  
Bureau de la Commission des Questions Sociales  
Ex-Officio Members / Membres d'office**

|   |               |                     |        |
|---|---------------|---------------------|--------|
| Chairperson / <i>présidente</i>                           | Ms/Mme        | Selin Sayek Böke    | SOC    |
| First Vice-Chairperson / <i>premier vice-président</i>    | Mr/M.         | Alain Milon         | EPP/CD |
| Second Vice-Chairperson / <i>deuxième vice-présidente</i> | Ms/Mme        | Olena Khomenko      | EC/DA  |
| Third Vice-Chairperson / <i>troisième vice-présidente</i> | <b>Ms/Mme</b> | <b>Sibel Arslan</b> | SOC    |

**Congress of Local and Regional Authorities /  
Congrès des Pouvoirs Locaux et Régionaux**

|   |       |           |  |
|---|-------|-----------|--|
| Thematic Spokesperson on Environment and Climate Change/ <i>Porte-Parole thématique sur l'environnement et le changement climatique</i> | Mr/M. | Cemal Bas |  |
|---|-------|-----------|--|

**Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie /  
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie**

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**Inter-Parliamentary Union / Union Interparlementaire**

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**European Parliament / Parlement Européen**

|  |        |  |
|--|--------|--|
|  | Ms/Mme | Marie-Pierre Vedrenne (France, Renew Europe) |
|--|--------|--|

**Other Parliamentarians present / Autres Parlementaires présent.e.s**

Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Diana Stoica.....Romania / Roumanie

Mr / *M.* Kriton-Ilias ARSENIS.....Greece / Grèce

Mr / *M.* Enis Kervan .....Kosovo\*

**Secretariat of Delegation or of Political Group / Secrétariat de Délégation ou de Groupe politique**

Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Sonja Langenhaeck, Delegation Secretary, Belgian delegation to PACE / *Secrétaire de délégation, délégation belge auprès de l'APCE*

**Council of Europe staff / Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe**

Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Maren Lambrecht, Secretary of the Current Affairs Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities / *Secrétaire de la commission des questions d'actualité, Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux*

Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Inge Hannon, Co-Secretary of the Current Affairs Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities / *Co-secrétaire de la commission des questions d'actualité, Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux*

\* 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. / *Toute référence au Kosovo, que ce soit à son territoire, à ses institutions ou à sa population, doit se comprendre en pleine conformité avec la Résolution 1244 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies et sans préjuger du statut du Kosovo.*

Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Alina Tatarenko, Head of Division, Democratic Governance, DGII: Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity / *Cheffe de division, Gouvernance démocratique, DGII: Direction générale de la démocratie et de la dignité humaine*

Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Judith Orland, Democratic Governance, DGII: Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity / *Gouvernance démocratique, DGII: Direction générale de la démocratie et de la dignité humaine*

Mr / *M.* Niall Sheerin, Democratic Governance, DGII: Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity / *Gouvernance démocratique, DGII: Direction générale de la démocratie et de la dignité humaine*

**Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée Parlementaire**

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

Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Tanja Kleinsorge ..... Head of the Secretariat / *Cheffe du Secrétariat*  
Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Aiste Ramanauskaite ..... Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*  
Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Anita Gholami ..... Co-Secretary/ *Co-Secrétaire*  
Mr / *M.* Guillaume Parent ..... Co-Secretary/ *Co-Secrétaire*  
Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Sylvie Elter ..... Assistant / *Assistante*  
Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Claire Fabre ..... Trainee / *Stagiaire*  
Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Teresa Andreani ..... Trainee / *Stagiaire*  
Ms / *M<sup>me</sup>* Federica Peseri ..... Trainee / *Stagiaire*