

SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2024) CB 06  
27 May 2024

## To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

### Synopsis

#### of the meeting held in Vilnius on 23 May 2024

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Thursday 23 May 2024, in Vilnius, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **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;
- **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 1, 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 2);
  - 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;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** on the basis of a proposal by the Group SOC, nominated Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland) as a member;
- **2024 Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment:** took note of the list of the three candidates shortlisted;
- **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;
- **Dates and places of next meetings:**

Monday 24 June 2024, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)  
Friday 28 June 2024, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)  
Friday 6 September 2024, 9.30 am, Paris.

Isild Heurtin

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Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations  
Secretary General of the Congress  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Directors General  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights  
Director of Communication  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

**Appendix 1 – 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 2 – 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

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

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

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**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

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**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

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**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