

Current Affairs Committee meeting, 23 March 2021

Speech by Thomas ANDERSSON, Sweden, (R, IDLG)
Chair of the Current Affairs Committee

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260 words = 2,5 minutes

Dear Colleagues, I am delighted and proud to be elected as Chair of the Current Affairs Committee in which I have been an active member for many years now.

Your support will be essential for me in carrying out the tasks of the Chair and, of course, throughout the rest of my mandate. I am certain that we will maintain the dynamic environment of this Committee together with the involvement of as many members as possible.

I would also like to express my thanks to the outgoing Chair Gabriele NEFF, to whom we owe much for the good work she has done over the time of her presidency. I intend to continue in the same spirit. Thank you, Gaby!

Since we will have a meeting more focused on our thematic work in May, I will not go in too much detail here regarding the priorities of my mandate.

At this moment, I can only assure you that I will closely follow our reports dealing with important topics such as cultural heritage, the situation of LGBT people, youth work and rural youth. We also have ongoing collaborations with other

Council of Europe bodies on civil participation, on children and the implementation of sustainable development goals.

We are all coping with the effects of the pandemic on our municipalities and regions and, although we see some light at the end of the tunnel, we are not yet there. However, despite the current difficulties, we must not lose sight of the future, when our role will be indispensable in post-pandemic recovery across Europe.