



AS/Per (2025) PV 01

23 June 2025

Standing Committee

Minutes

of the meeting held in Valletta

on Friday 23 May 2025

1. Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, **opened** the meeting and thanked the Maltese authorities for their exceptional hospitality in Valletta. Referring to his participation in the 134th Session of the Committee of Ministers held in Luxembourg on 13-14 May 2025, he said that two events had marked the session: the opening for signature of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer and the backing of the special tribunal for the crime of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The President took pride in the fact that both the convention and the special tribunal had originated in the Assembly, which clearly demonstrated its political relevance and impact. The Assembly would continue to work tirelessly to restore peace in Ukraine and ensure accountability for the crimes committed and to uphold democracy and the rule of law. In relation to this latter point, the President welcomed the Secretary General's proposal for a New Democratic Pact for Europe. He also welcomed that democratic backsliding was amongst the priorities of the Maltese Presidency. The President also referred to the ongoing war in Gaza and stressed that innocent civilians must have access to humanitarian aid.

2. Welcome address by Hon. Angelo Farrugia, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta

Mr Angelo Farrugia highlighted Malta's long tradition of diplomacy and unwavering commitment to multilateralism, democratic resilience, and European unity founded on shared values. In an era marked by an armed conflict on the European soil, democratic backsliding, disinformation and growing normalisation of hatred in political discourse, Malta considered its presidency of the Committee of Ministers as a call to conscience and action. During this period, it would champion stronger protection for democratic institutions and marginalised groups, deeper engagement with civil society, advancement of children's rights, support to victims of war, and thoughtful rejuvenation of the Council of Europe, among other things. The Speaker underscored the Maltese Parliament's role in achieving concrete progress on issues such as judicial independence, anti-corruption, media freedom, and social inclusion, in close alignment with the principles and mission of the Assembly. Referring to his intervention during the Conference of Presidents of Parliament held in March 2025, he condemned violence against politicians, especially women, as a threat to democracy. Recalling Malta's commitment to neutrality, he stressed that his country would be a voice for dialogue and a builder of bridges, but not at the expense of justice or human rights. He called on the members of the Assembly to make Malta's presidency a meaningful turning point for the Council of Europe.

3. Exchange of views with Hon. Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe [CM/Inf (2025) 9, CM/Inf (2025) 8]

Mr Ian Borg stressed that Malta's 60 years of membership of the Council of Europe had profoundly shaped its democratic evolution, reinforcing commitment to human rights, the rule of law, and the values of multilateralism. Since Malta's last presidency in 2002, the European political landscape had changed drastically: what was one characterised by growing confidence in multilateralism and a prevailing sense of momentum around diplomacy, was now marked by increasing pressure on multilateralism and a declining confidence in the power of diplomacy. Democratic backsliding, populism and disinformation were threatening human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Council of Europe must remain committed in its support to and solidarity with Ukraine and Malta would continue to keep this high on the Organisation's agenda. The Maltese Presidency coincided with the 75th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights – a landmark instrument that stood as the backbone of the Organisation and had to be safeguarded. The Deputy Prime Minister also stressed the importance of youth participation and engagement in democratic processes and supported the initiative on a New Democratic Pact for Europe. During its presidency, Malta would host several conferences, on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse and on LGBTIQ+ rights, among other topics. In the face of current challenges, including the absence of two delegations from the Assembly, ensuring institutional integrity was essential. Malta would strive to strengthen the dialogue and engagement between the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly. The principles of dialogue and mutual respect were also needed between member States, with other countries and international organisations.

Ms Bayr welcomed the words of solidarity with Ukraine and Malta's commitment to shared values. She enquired about the next steps to legalise abortion.

The Deputy Prime Minister noted that there was no debate in the Maltese society as to whether the parliament should legislate abortion. While Malta was ready to listen to views regarding the positive and possible negative aspects of legislating abortion, no political party was committed to take such a step for the foreseeable future.

Mr Hispán asked whether a deeper international engagement was required to control illegal immigration in the southern Mediterranean.

The Deputy Prime Minister noted that Malta was highly invested in managing legal migration, as it needed foreign workers to sustain its economy. As far as illegal migration was concerned, Malta would never support a system based

on criminal activity. The armed forces were spending important resources to monitor and save lives at sea and would continue to do so. Yet, this collective tragedy needed to be addressed collectively, and not only by the frontline States like Malta situated in the southern border of Europe, because illegal immigration was inevitably spreading across the continent. To combat illegal immigration, Europe should also invest in Africa, create further partnerships and win-win situations with the African countries through diplomacy.

Referring to the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, **Mr Németh** asked Malta's position on the role of the Council of Europe in the war, Donald Trump's peace efforts and the way Europe and the Council of Europe can complement these efforts.

The Deputy Prime Minister stated that based on its military neutrality, Malta has been providing non-military ammunition and assistance to Ukraine over the past three years. He also referred to Malta's role in the adoption and implementation of European Union sanctions against Russia, its contribution to the discussions at the UN Security Council (2023-2024) and in the OSCE, as well as its efforts for the return of children abducted by Russia. Malta supported President Trump's peace efforts and would support all peace efforts.

Ms Vogels asked what steps the Maltese government was taking to fully implement the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and to ensure timely and effective compliance in the future. She also asked how the Maltese government was encouraging other countries to implement the judgments of the Court.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that the implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights would be at the core of the Maltese Presidency. Maltese cases before the Court mostly related to property rights and their full implementation was high on the agenda. To various extents, all countries had their difficulties in implementing the Court's judgments, but the obligation to comply with them was unequivocal. Through diplomacy and dialogue, and the sharing of experiences, Malta was aiming to improve the implementation of the Court's judgments.

Mr Hunko asked for an update on the progress made in the investigation into the case of Daphne Caruana Galizia.

The Deputy Prime Minister noted that the case of Daphne Caruana Galizia remained a priority. Three hitmen were serving their time and there was an ongoing trial concerning two other suspects for their alleged participation in the murder. The case had prompted reforms regarding the protection of journalists and lessons were continuing to be learnt from this dark period in the recent history of Malta.

Mr Goncharenko asked about Malta's position on seizing frozen Russian assets. Referring to a recent Financial Times investigation, he enquired whether it was still possible for Russian oligarchs, including those under sanctions, to obtain Maltese golden visas and passports.

Referring to the situation in Türkiye where academics, elected politicians, human rights defenders and journalists continued to be imprisoned in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights, **Mr Tornaritis** asked how the Maltese Presidency intended to hold Türkiye accountable for these violations.

Mr Oikonomou asked about Malta's position on Türkiye's current role and aspiration to deepen engagement or seek membership within European security frameworks, specifically regarding the compatibility of Türkiye's actions with the core values and security principles upheld by the Council of Europe.

The Deputy Prime Minister noted that discussions around seizing Russian assets were ongoing in Brussels, stressing that there were no Russian assets in Malta. Russian applications to the investment programme which Mr Goncharenko referred to had been stopped from the very first day of the war of aggression against Ukraine. Regarding Russians who had been sanctioned at a later stage, the process of removing the rights acquired through the investment programme was ongoing. Each country should ensure that no Russian oligarchs under sanctions enjoy such rights. Türkiye was expected to apply the highest democratic standards and practices, just like any other member State of the Council of Europe. It was important however to ensure that efforts in this direction do not isolate any country. Malta was supporting the Secretary General's efforts to engage with Türkiye and hoped that this continued engagement would pave the way for a meaningful outcome.

4. Examination of new credentials

[Doc. 16175]

The Standing Committee **ratified** the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Bulgaria, Iceland, Ireland and Liechtenstein.

5. Modifications in the composition of committees

[Commissions (2025) 04, Commissions (2025) 04 Add.]

The Standing Committee **approved** changes in the composition of Assembly committees as set out in document Commissions (2025) 04 and its addendum.

6. Requests for debate (under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure)

The President informed members that a request for a current affairs debate entitled “The need to ensure the survival of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty” had been submitted by the leaders of the Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group; Group of the European People’s Party; European Conservatives, Patriots & Affiliates; and Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. A second request for a current affairs debate entitled “The role of parliamentarians in safeguarding investment in human rights and democracy amid rising military expenditure” had been submitted by the leader of the United European Left group.

The Bureau had agreed to recommend holding these current affairs debate and appointed Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) as the first speaker for the debate on “The need to ensure the survival of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty” and Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL) as the first speaker for the debate on “The role of parliamentarians in safeguarding investment in human rights and democracy amid rising military expenditure.”

The Standing Committee **approved** the proposals of the Bureau.

7. Agenda

[AS/Per (2025) OJ 01 rev2]

The draft agenda was **adopted**.

8. Third part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (23-27 June 2025)

[AS/Bur (2025) 30]

The Standing Committee **took note** of the draft agenda of the third-part session of the Assembly.

Mr Mazars referred to the report on “Social mobilisation, social unrest and police reaction in Council of Europe member States: is there a need for a new social contract?” scheduled to be debated during the third part-session. Despite its general title, this report singled out France and failed to consider the French authorities’ comments. It should therefore be sent back to committee and redrafted taking a more balanced approach.

The President said that the Standing Committee could not modify the draft agenda. The Bureau could discuss this request at its next meeting.

9. References to committees

[AS/Per (2025) 03]

The Standing Committee **ratified** the references proposed by the Bureau (see Appendix 1).

10. Current affairs debate on “The need to ensure the survival of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty”

Introducing the debate, **Mr Zingeris** stressed that Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) has been a beacon of truth in countries where press freedom was under threat and disinformation was pervasive. It played a crucial role in countering anti-democratic propaganda and hybrid warfare. Thus, the decision to withhold RFE/RL’s operating funds posed a serious threat to democracy. It was time for Europe to support RFE/RL’s vital work. While welcoming the European Union pledge to offer an initial €5.5 million to support RFE/RL, he noted that only a long-term and regular financing would ensure its survival, allowing millions of listeners in oppressed nations to have access to reliable and independent news. The Assembly should urgently draw the European Commission’s attention to this issue, including possibly by sending a letter.

Connecting online, the President and CEO of RFE/RL, **Mr Stephen Capus**, underlined that RFE/RL has long been a key actor for providing fact-based independent information to predominantly European audiences, reaching approximately 47 million people weekly, including 9% of Russians, 35% of Ukrainians and 10% of Iranians. With billions spent yearly on Russian, Iranian and Chinese propaganda and disinformation campaigns, RFE/RL was a lifeline to those otherwise unable to access free media. He warned that the United States’ decision to withhold RFE/RL’s funding had emboldened authoritarian adversaries, which were trying to seize this opportunity to increase their media influence. Despite this grim picture, he remained optimistic thanks to the profound words of political support from across Europe, and pledges for emergency funding from the European Union and individual States.

Ms Bayr also referred to RFE/RL's crucial role in promoting freedom and democracy in a world where propaganda and fake news have increasingly become a threat to these values and part of a hybrid war. Welcoming the European Union decision to financially support RFE/RL, she said that Europe should do its utmost to keep RFE/RL alive and active, particularly its social media branch.

For **Mr Goncharenko**, the issue at stake was much broader than ensuring RFE/RL's survival; it was about guaranteeing freedom and liberty in Europe. While the Council of Europe could make a symbolic contribution to RFE/RL's finances, its member States should aim for a €2 million funding each, as this remained totally feasible. Member States should also increase military support to Ukraine. On a personal note, he referred to RFE/RL's role in keeping hope alive during the Cold War.

Referring to RFE/RL's role in the fall of the Iron Curtain, **Ms Kravchuk** said that while the times and methods had changed, the objective of authoritarian regimes remained the same. In the Russian Federation and Belarus, RFE/RL had been labelled as an "undesirable organisation". She paid tribute to three RFE/RL correspondents/journalists who had covered the war in Ukraine - Victoria Roshchyna who been killed in a Russian prison, and Irina Danilovich and Vladyslav Yesypenko, who remained imprisoned.

Ms Schou welcomed the debate and joined the previous speakers in underlining the importance of ensuring the survival of RFE/RL. She called for European Union budget line to finance it.

Ms Kalniņa-Lukaševica stressed the importance of RFE/RL's long-standing role in providing truthful information to people leaving under censorship. Her report on foreign interference debated during the April part-session had called on member States to increase the protection of journalists and to safeguard press freedom, including by working together to ensure the continued funding of RFE/RL. While welcoming the emergency funds agreed by the European Union, she noted that only a long-term financial backing would be a sustainable and appropriate solution.

Ms Kumpula-Natri warned against the growing crisis in journalism due to a lack of financial support, worsening quality of online content and news generated by artificial intelligence. She called for continued financial support for RFE/RL.

Ms Modert expressed concern about some stakeholders suggesting that the European international media outlets should be streamlined. Any harm to RFE/RL would play into the hands of autocratic regimes.

Reacting to the debate, **Mr Capus** referred to RFE/RL's 75 years of history and reiterated its extremely important relevance, unparalleled credibility and integrity. While there was a lot of uncertainty about United States foreign policy, support for making as much of Europe free as possible remained a goal shared on both sides of the Atlantic. While the word radio was still in the organisation's name, RFE/RL was reaching out to audiences in every manner possible, including through social media, websites and video transmission feeds. He was confident that creative solutions would be found to ensure a bright future for RFE/RL.

Mr Zingeris referred to the efforts to counter disinformation about the war in Ukraine and RFE/RL's role in this context. Russians and Belarusians had been called upon not to support the war of aggression against Ukraine. The ongoing hybrid war was threatening human rights and freedoms. He called for a European Union budget line to fund RFE/RL, warning that millions of listeners would otherwise lose access to the voice of free Europe.

11. Current affairs debate on "The role of parliamentarians in safeguarding investment in human rights and democracy amid rising military expenditure"

Introducing the debate, **Mr Hunko** said that the recent figures on defence expenditure worldwide represented the largest jump in this field since the Cold War. This had major implications for the whole world. A possible further increase in defence spending in NATO countries (from 2% to 5% of GDP), went against the recommendations of the New Agenda for Peace presented by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2023, which called for renewed efforts to limit conventional arms and increase investment in prevention and social infrastructure. Parliaments had a crucial role to play in ensuring control over and transparency of defence spending. As an outgoing member of the Assembly and referring to President Eisenhower's farewell address, he warned against the dangers of a military-industrial complex.

Ms Kluit noted that while increased investment in military expenditure could help protect human rights, freedom and democracy, it could also become a threat against these values. Diplomacy, negotiations and de-escalation should be prioritised over military options, and the military spending should not be at the cost of social expenditure.

Lord Keen argued that there was not necessarily a correlation between military expenditure and human rights, and challenged the assumption that rising military expenditure would be inconsistent with the development of human rights. A nation State must defend its political and geographical boundaries, by using force where required. He argued that

an increase in military expenditure could create a virtuous economic cycle and agreed on the need to ensure transparency about this matter.

Mr Hispán agreed with the previous speaker's comments. Europe should not count on the United States and must have the means to defend itself. Investment in defence was paramount to protect freedom and democracy.

Mr Mazars noted that military investment and social investment were not mutually exclusive but complementary. Given the current geopolitical context and the fact that Europe could no longer count on the full support of the United States, investment in defence was paramount to guarantee freedom, democracy and Europe's social model.

Mr Tornaritis argued that the situation in Cyprus - which remained divided - was a stark reminder of how militarisation can violate human rights and undermine peace. Against the background of growing military expenditure worldwide, security policies must respect human rights, uphold international law and not compromise justice and democracy. True security lied not in arms but in rights, dialogue and accountability.

Ms Yasko stressed that security expenditure was crucial and not only from the Ukrainian perspective. Given the current geopolitical context, investment in defence was a must.

Mr Hunko highlighted the importance of bearing the context in mind when making historical analogies. Today, there was a situation where it was once again necessary to have mid-range missiles in Germany, but without the prospect of a new disarmament regime like in the 1980s. He reiterated parliaments' major role in ensuring transparency and democratic control.

The President paid tribute to Mr Hunko's work in the Assembly and thanked him for holding fast to values.

12. Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Draft Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters

[Doc. 16173]

Mr Vardanyan presented an overview of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, its purpose and development over the years. The cross-border nature of criminal activities and the constant movement of individuals required efficient and effective co-operation. The draft third protocol, which was now being submitted to the Assembly for opinion, aimed to do this by taking account of modern technological developments. It was also providing an improved legal basis to facilitate State surveillance. The draft protocol should be welcomed by the Assembly, adopted by the Committee of Ministers and opened for signature and ratification. Simultaneously, there should be renewed efforts to ensure that State surveillance is carried out in an appropriate manner, including by implementing the judgments of the European Convention on Human Rights and adopting legal frameworks on spyware in line with the Venice Commission recommendations. A legally binding Council of Europe instrument on the acquisition, use, sale and export of spyware would also be welcome.

Lord Keen stressed that the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights has unanimously adopted the draft opinion. The protocol was welcome for enhancing cross-border co-operation in criminal matters while upholding human rights safeguards. The protocol's regulation and facilitation of international co-operation concerning State surveillance were particularly relevant. The new protocol should serve as a reminder to member States to strengthen their oversight and legislative frameworks, ensuring that State surveillance is conducted in a lawful, necessary and proportionate manner. He invited members to support the draft opinion.

Ms Modert fully supported the opinion and commended the rapporteur for his approach, his main points of focus and conclusions.

Mr Vardanyan noted that the internationalisation of crimes and the digitalisation of co-operation were the key reasons why the convention had to be updated through this new additional protocol. The issue of spyware use was problematic, although the draft protocol provided appropriate safeguards in this context.

The Standing Committee **unanimously adopted** the opinion "Draft Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters" [Opinion 306 (2025)].

13. Rules, Ethics and Immunities

Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2026-2027

[Doc. 16166]

Mr Brico presented the background of the report recalling that the program and budget for the 2024-2027 period had been adopted following the Reykjavik Summit, with a historic increase of 12%. During the 2024-2025 period, with an 8.3% increase in its budget, the Assembly had strengthened the implementation of the Summit priorities concerning,

among others, the war in Ukraine, democratic backsliding, youth participation, the right to a safe, clean, and sustainable environment, artificial intelligence and civil society engagement. During the upcoming biennium, the Assembly would continue on this path, focusing on the support to Ukraine, the New Democratic Pact for Europe, the implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, co-operation activities in the election field, relations with civil society in Belarus and the Russian Federation and the Assembly's integrity framework, among other things. Several initiatives were planned to improve and modernise working methods and ensure cost-efficiency. It was also important to preserve the financial stability of political groups.

Stressing that the draft resolution was fully aligned with the political priorities set out at the Reykjavik Summit, **Ms Engelhardt** noted that the 12% increase in the Council of Europe's budget had allowed the Assembly to continue supporting Ukraine, defending democracy, promoting the right to a healthy environment, and addressing the challenges posed by artificial intelligence. The draft resolution reflected a clear vision of an Assembly that is modern, visible, and fully committed to the rule of law and human rights. As an outgoing member of the Assembly, she thanked her colleagues for their good co-operation and support and urged them to continue the fight for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly thanked the rapporteur and the committee for their work. She counted on the members to support the proposals contained in the draft resolution, in their contact with the Secretary General and Ambassadors.

The Standing Committee **unanimously adopted** the resolution "Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2026-2027" [Resolution 2604 (2025)].

14. Other business

N.A.

15. Next meeting

The Standing Committee **decided** to hold its next meeting in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 21 November 2025.

The President expressed his gratitude to everyone who made the meeting possible.

The President closed the meeting at 16:30.

APPENDIX 1

References to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **How to ensure that the Russian Federation implements the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, including paying the compensation awarded**

[Doc. 16149](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

2. **Follow-up to the 4th round of GRECO recommendations relating to parliamentarians**

[Doc. 16157](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Heike Engelhardt (Germany, SOC) and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*

3. **Equal share of unpaid care work between women and men: a pre-condition to achieving gender equality**

[Doc. 16158](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

4. **Draft Council of Europe Convention on the Co-Production of Audiovisual Works in the Form of Series**

[Doc. 16164](#)

Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers

Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

5. **The promotion of democratic security in Europe through soft power**

[Doc. 16178](#)

Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) and other members of the Assembly

Reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

APPENDIX 2

List of participants / Liste des participants

President of the Parliamentary Assembly / Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Mr Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS

Chairpersons of Political Group / Présidents de groupe politique

Mr Pablo HISPÁN	Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)
Mr Zsolt NÉMETH	European Conservatives, Patriots & Affiliates (ECPA) / Conservateurs européens, Patriotes & Affiliés (CEPA)
Mr Andrej HUNKO	Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)

Vice-Presidents of the Assembly / Vice-président-es de l'Assemblée

Ms Elisabetta GARDINI	Italy / Italie
Mr Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES	Spain / Espagne
Mr Andries GRYFFROY	Belgium / Belgique
Mr Mogens JENSEN	Denmark / Danemark
Ms Miapetra KUMPULA-NATRI	Finland / Finlande
Mr Marko PAVIĆ	Croatia / Croatie
Ms Agnieszka POMASKA	Poland / Pologne

Chairpersons of National Delegations / Président-es de délégations nationales

Mr Ruben RUBINYAN	Armenia / Arménie
Mr Andries GRYFFROY	Belgium / Belgique
Mr Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine
Mr Marko PAVIĆ	Croatia / Croatie
Mr Nicos TORNARITIS	Cyprus / Chypre
Mr Mogens JENSEN	Denmark / Danemark
Ms Kadri TALİ	Estonia / Estonie
Ms Miapetra KUMPULA-NATRI	Finland / Finlande
Mr Zsolt NÉMETH	Hungary / Hongrie
Mr Sigurður Helgi PÁLMASSON	Iceland / Islande
Mr Patrick CASEY	Ireland / Irlande
Ms Elisabetta GARDINI	Italy / Italie
Ms Zanda KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA	Latvia / Lettonie
Ms Birutė VĖSAITĖ	Lithuania / Lituanie
Ms Naomi CACHIA	Malta / Malte
Mme Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO	Monaco
Ms Nađa LAKOVIĆ	Montenegro / Monténégro
Ms Rian VOGELS	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Ms Ingjerd Schie SCHOU	Norway / Norvège
Ms Agnieszka POMASKA	Poland / Pologne
Ms Edite ESTRELA	Portugal
Mr Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI	San Marino / Saint-Marin
Mr Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES	Spain / Espagne
Mr Alfred HEER	Switzerland / Suisse

**Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights /
Président de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme**

Lord Richard KEEN

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

Ms Saskia KLUIT

Netherlands / Pays-Bas

**Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons /
Président de la Commission des migrations, des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées**

Mr Oleksii GONCHARENKO

Ukraine

**Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination /
Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination**

Ms Catia POLIDORI

Italy / Italie

**Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of
the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) /
Présidente de la Commission pour le respect des obligations et engagements des États membres du
Conseil de l'Europe (Commission de suivi)**

Ms Zanda KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA

Latvia / Lettonie

**Chairperson of the Committee on Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities /
Présidente de la Commission du Règlement, de l'éthique et des immunités**

Ms Heike ENGELHARDT

Germany / Allemagne

**Chairperson of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights /
Présidente de la Commission sur l'élection des juges à la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme**

Ms Petra BAYR

Austria / Autriche

Committee Rapporteurs / Rapporteurs de commission

M. Christophe BRICO

Monaco

Mr Vladimir VARDANYAN

Armenia / Arménie

Ex-officio members of the Bureau / Membres ex-officio du Bureau

Ms Naomi CACHIA

Malta / Malte

Mme Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO

Monaco

Other members of the Parliamentary Assembly / Autres membres de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Ms Ramona ATTARD

Malta / Malte

Mr Michael FARRUGIA

Malta / Malte

Mr Omar FARRUGIA

Malta / Malte

Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK

Ukraine

Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS

Estonia / Estonie

M. Stéphane MAZARS

France

Mme Octavie MODERT

Luxembourg

Mr Ioannis OIKONOMOU

Greece / Grèce

Mr Chris SAID

Malta / Malte

Ms Ivanka VASILEVSKA

North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord

Ms Yelyzaveta YASKO

Ukraine

Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS

Lithuania / Lituanie

Invited personalities / Personnalités invitées

Hon. Ian BORG, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe / Vice-Premier ministre et ministre des Affaires étrangères et du Tourisme, Président du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe

Hon. Angelo FARRUGIA, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta / Président de la Chambre des Représentants, Parlement de Malte

Secretaries of Political Groups / Secrétaires des groupes politiques

Ms Francesca ARBOGAST	SOC
Ms Denise O'HARA	EPP/CD / PPE/DC
Ms Maria BIGDAY	ALDE / ADLE
Ms Anna KOLOTOVA	UEL / GUE

Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General / Cabinet du Secrétaire Général et du Secrétaire Général adjoint

Ms Julie MEYLAN	Adviser, Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe / Conseillère, Cabinet du Secrétaire Général et du Secrétaire Général adjoint du Conseil de l'Europe
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Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Ms Despina CHATZIVASSILIOU	Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétaire Générale de l'Assemblée parlementaire
Ms Louise BARTON	Director of Committees - Inclusive and Sustainable Societies and Co-operation / Directrice des commissions - Sociétés inclusives et durables et coopération
Ms Sonia SIRTORI	Director of Committees - Democracy and Rule of law / Directrice des commissions - Démocratie et État de droit
Mme Valérie CLAMER	Head of the Table Office, Information Management and Events Department / Cheffe du Service de la Séance, de la gestion de l'information et des événements
Mr Sergey KHRYCHIKOV	Head of the Private Office of the President of the Assembly / Chef du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée
Ms Liri KOPACI-DI-MICHELE	Head of the Parliamentary Co-operation and Electoral Division / Cheffe de la Division de la coopération parlementaire et électorale
Mme Isild HEURTIN	Head of the Bureau of the Assembly / Cheffe du Bureau de l'Assemblée
Ms Ayşegül ELVERİŞ	Head of the Secretariat of the Standing Committee / Cheffe du Secrétariat de la Commission permanente
Mr Angus MACDONALD	Deputy to the Head of the Communication Division / Adjoint au Chef de la Division de la communication
Mme Martine MEYER	Administrative assistant of the Standing Committee / Assistante administrative de la Commission permanente
Mme Aurélie HAUG	Assistant of the Standing Committee / Assistante de la Commission permanente
Mme Sachka SONRIER	Assistant of the Bureau / Assistante du Bureau

Other participants / Autres participant-es

Ms Francesca CAMILLERI VETTIGER	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malta / Ambassadrice, Représentante permanente de Malte
Mr Joel ATTARD	Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Malta / Adjoint à la Représentante permanente de Malte
Mr Melchior GIORDIMAINA	Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Malta / Adjoint à la Représentante permanente de Malte
Ms Melanie BONNICI BENNETT	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister / Cabinet du Vice-Premier ministre
Mr David VELLA	Head of communication, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister / Chef de communication, Cabinet du Vice-Premier ministre
Mr Raymond ATTARD	Photographer, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister / Photographe, Cabinet du Vice-Premier ministre
Mr Miguel ABELA	Media co-ordinator, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister / Coordinateur media, Cabinet du Vice-Premier ministre
Ms Azra KOST	Head of the International Relations and Protocol Department in the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina / Cheffe du département des relations internationales et du protocole au secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire de Bosnie-Herzégovine