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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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15 October 2026

To the members of the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Synopsis
of the meeting held in Bern on 14 October 2026

The Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter, meeting in Bern (Switzerland), with Ms Sibel Arslan (Switzerland, SOC), Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

– ***The European Social Charter in Switzerland: challenges and opportunities***: held a roundtable with the following participants:

- **Opening remarks:**
  - Mr Stefan Engler, President of the Council of States
  - Ms Marianne Binder Keller, Chair of the Swiss delegation to PACE
  - Ms Sibel Arslan, Member of the Swiss National Council
- **Panel 1 – Swiss model of social partnership and the European Social Charter: opportunities and concerns:**
  - Ms Valérie Piller Carrard, Member of the Swiss National Council and PACE Rapporteur on "European guidelines to counter social dumping and labour exploitation"
  - Mr Marco Taddei, Head of International Affairs, Swiss Employers' Association
  - Mr Adrian Wüthrich, Chair of Travail.Suisse
  - Mr Daniel Kopp, Secretary General, Union syndicale Suisse
  - Mr Simon Schnyder, representative of the the Swiss Association of Arts and Crafts
  - Mrs Valérie Berset Bircher, Ambassador, Head of International Labour Affairs at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
- **Panel 2 – Social rights in federal systems: from European commitments to local realities:**
  - Mr Ylber Zejnullahu, Vice-Chair and Belgian member of the Governmental Committee of the Charter
  - Mr Urs Janett, Head of the Swiss Delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and State Councillor in the Canton of Uri
- **Panel 3 – The Charter today: what does it mean for Switzerland?**
  - Mr Stefan Schlegel, Director of the Swiss Institute of Human Rights
  - Mr Michael Windfuhr, Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  - Mr Giuseppe Palmisano, Former President of the European Committee of Social Rights

– ***Dates and places of next meetings:*** took note of the next meeting to be held as follows:

- 2027 first part session of the Assembly, 25-29 January 2027, Strasbourg (date to be confirmed)

Aiste Ramanauskaite, Claire Dubois

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors 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
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe