



SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2023) CB 06

26 May 2023

## To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

### Synopsis

### of the meeting held in Riga on 25 May 2023

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Thursday 25 May 2023, in Riga, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and held an exchange of views with the Secretary General;
- **4th Council of Europe Heads of State and Government Summit (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023):** took note of the Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit by the Heads of State and Government and considered a draft Declaration on the follow-up to the 4th Summit with a view to its adoption by the Standing Committee;
- **Standing Committee in Riga (26 May 2023):**
  - requests for current affairs debates: took note of the requests by the leaders of the five political groups to hold debates on:
    - “The follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit”, decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate and appointed Ms Fiona O’Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) as the first speaker;
    - “Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics”, decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate and appointed M. Indrek Saar (Estonia, SOC) as the first speaker;
  - updated the draft agenda;
- **Third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June):**
  - took note of the requests to hold debates under urgent procedure on:
    - “Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor” tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons;
    - “Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine” tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;
    - “War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?” tabled by the leaders of the five political groups;
  - decided, for the third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June), to organise the seating in the hemicycle according to political groups, and to open the notification of substitutions by debate;
  - drew-up the draft agenda;

- **Application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30:** upon proposals by the President, appointed Ms Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Mr Thomas Markert, as the eminent lawyers who, according to established practice, will draw up a report for the attention of the Bureau assessing the conformity of the applicant's legal system with Council of Europe standards;
- **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:**
  - Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (2 April 2023): approved the report by the observation mission;
  - Türkiye: Presidential and parliamentary elections (14 May 2023): took note of the statement by the observation mission;
  - Montenegro: parliamentary elections (11 June 2023): approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee (appendix 2) and appointed Mr Reinhold LOPATKA (Austria, EPP/CD) as Chairperson;
- **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:** authorised
  - the rapporteur on “The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms”, to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
  - the rapporteur on “Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America”, to carry out fact-finding visits to Parlatino (Panama), and to Colombia and Mexico (at no cost to the Assembly), in the course of 2023, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** on the basis of a proposal by the EC/DA group, nominated Ms Sheryll MURRAY (United Kingdom) as a member;
- **2023 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November):** took note of the concept paper and decide to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum;
- **Date and place of next meetings:**
  - Monday 19 June 2023, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)
  - Friday 23 June 2023, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)
  - Thursday 14 September 2023, 9.30 am, Paris

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Copy to:

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  
Director of Communication  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

## Appendix 1 – References and transmissions to committees

### A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

- **The need to designate the Russian “Wagner Group” as a terrorist organisation, Doc. 15720:** transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*
- **Strengthening the protection of biodiversity in Europe through sustainable and fair financing of the Bern Convention, Doc. 15727:** transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for consultation*
- **Commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, Doc. 15728:** transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*, and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for information*
- **Promoting universal health coverage, Doc. 15729:** reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*
- **Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine, Doc. 15732:** transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”*
- **Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons, Doc. 15735:** reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*
- **Call for a change on rules relating to gender quota, Doc. 15749:** transmission to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Modification of various provisions of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure”* and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for information*
- **Protecting human rights in and through sport: obligations and shared responsibilities, Doc. 15750:** reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*
- **Investigation into the illegal surveillance of foreign leaders, political opponents and activists in Poland, Doc. 15751:** transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance”* and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information*
- **Budgets and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027, Terms of reference:** reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*
- **Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2024-2025, Terms of reference of the committee:** reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

### B. REPLY AFTER CONSULTATION

- **The foreseeable wealth gap in the automated future, Doc. 15701:** reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for taking into account within the framework of the preparation of its report on “Safeguarding future rights for future generations”*

**Appendix 2 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Montenegro (11 June 2023)**

**Chairperson / Président.e: Mr Reinhold LOPATKA (Austria / Autriche, EPP/CD)**

**Socialists , Democrats and Greens Group / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)**

Ms / Mme Cécile HEMMEN, Luxembourg  
Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU, Cyprus / Chypre  
Mr / M. Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ, Croatia / Croatie  
Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal  
Mr / M. Adnan DIBRANI, Sweden / Suède  
Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche

**Substitutes / suppléant.e.s**

Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France  
Mr / M. André VALLINI, France  
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye  
Mr / M. Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine\*  
Ms / Mme Daniela OTEŞANU, Romania / Roumanie

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

Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC\*, Romania, Roumanie  
Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche  
Mr / M. Joe O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande  
Mr / M. Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland / Pologne  
Ms / Mme Jorida TABAKU, Albania / Albanie

**Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) / Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe (ADLE)**

Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France  
Ms / Mme Fiona O'LOUGHLIN, Ireland / Irlande  
Mr / M. Eerik-Niiles KROSS, Estonia / Estonie  
Mr / M. Andrii LOPUSHANSKYI, Ukraine

**Substitutes / suppléant.e.s**

Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France  
Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN, Switzerland / Suisse  
Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie  
Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie  
Ms / Mme Ms Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA, Ukraine  
Ms / Mme Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie

**European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance (EC-DA) / Groupe des Conservateurs européens et Alliance démocratique (CE-AD)**

Mr / M. Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne  
Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine  
Mr / M. José Maria SANCHEZ GARCIA, Spain / Espagne

**Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)**

Ms / Mme Nina KASIMATI, Greece / Grèce

**Substitutes / suppléant.e.s**

Mr / M. Andrej HUNKO, Germany / Allemagne

**Co-rapporteur.e.s AS/MON (ex officio)**

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse

Mr / M. Nicos TORNARITIS, Cyprus / Chypre