



SECRETARIAT

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12 December 2025

## To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### Synopsis

#### of the meeting held in Paris on 10 December 2025

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 10 December 2025, with Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, then with Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), First Vice-Chairperson in the Chair, as regards:

- **Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): agreed to change the title of the report to *Supporting the commitment to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine and the security of the European continent*, considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Strengthening mechanisms for early warning and action in conflict prevention** (*rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Matjaž Gruden, Director for Democracy, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity of the Council of Europe, followed by an exchange of views and agreed to change the title of the report to *Strengthening early warning mechanisms for democratic backsliding*;
- **Middle East: recent developments**: heard statements by Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, Ms Meirav Ben Ari, Chairperson of the Observer delegation of Israel to the Parliamentary Assembly (online), and Mr Bernard Sabella, member of the Palestinian Partner for democracy delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly (online), followed by an exchange of views;
- **Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence** (*rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Francesca Fanucci, Senior legal advisor, European Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ECNL), and representative of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe at the Committee on Artificial Intelligence of the Council of Europe, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Digital transformation: the role of the OECD in evaluating the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the future of work** (*rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to the OECD headquarters in Paris on 26 November 2025, and held a hearing with the participation of Ms Angelica Salvi Del Pero, Senior advisor, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD, and Mr Flavio Calvino, Senior Economist, Firms, Digital Transformation & Technology Diffusion, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by Mr Ryszard Petru (Poland, ALDE), General Rapporteur for a democratic Belarus;
- **External Relations**: heard a statement by Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on External Relations, and held an exchange of views with the online participation of Mr Theodoros Kalionchiz de la Fuente, member of the Observer delegation of Mexico;

- **Call for candidates of rapporteurs for report:** called for candidates for the following reports:
  - Need to protect election observers (Doc. 16241);
  - Baltic Sea security challenges (Doc. 16262);
- **Replies by the Committee of Ministers:** considered the Committee of Ministers replies to:
  - Recommendation 2292 (2025) “Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe”;
  - Recommendation 2295 (2025) “Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America”;
- **Meeting of the Committee in Monaco, on 9-10 March 2026:** heard a statement by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson of the Monegasque delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, and took note of the preliminary programme and the practical information;
- **Authorisations by the committee:** authorised Mr George Papandreu (Greece, SOC), in his capacity as General Rapporteur on democracy, to participate online in the launch of the Guidelines for citizen participation of the Network for Citizen Participation and Deliberation, organised by the Federation for Innovation in Democracy - Europe, on 12 December 2025 (at no cost to the Assembly);
- **Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment:** took note of the call for nominations for the 2026 edition of the Prize;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:
  - First part-session 2026 (26-30 January), Strasbourg
  - Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 March 2026, Monaco
  - Second part-session 2026 (20-24 April), Strasbourg
  - Wednesday 20 May 2026, Paris
  - Third part-session 2026 (22-26 June), Strasbourg
  - Tuesday 8 September 2026, Paris
  - Fourth part-session 2026 (28 September-2 October), Strasbourg
  - Monday 7 December 2026, Paris

Catherine Hugel, Cesare Colombo, John Dorber, Eugen Schoenfeld

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