



SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2023) CB 11

17 October 2023

To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 13 October 2023

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 13 October 2023, in Strasbourg, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communication:** took note of the statement by the President of the Assembly;
- **Follow-up to the fourth part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 9-13 October):**
 - approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly to texts adopted by the Assembly, as set out in Appendix 1;
 - took note of the President's proposal, supported by the Presidential Committee, to establish a regular contact platform for dialogue with representatives of Russian democratic forces who share Council of Europe values, fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and condemn the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine;
 - took note that the President would address a letter to the Venice Commission requesting for its opinion on the legislative framework and practice on targeted surveillance of all member States, as decided by the Assembly in its Resolution 2513 (2023) on "Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance";
- **Meeting of the Standing Committee in Vaduz (28 November 2023):** took note of the draft agenda;
- **Follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit:** took note of the information provided;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 2, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: took note of the letter by the committee, decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in a PACE co-operation event on "The situation of the children of Ukraine", on 15 December 2023, in Paris;
 - Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: considered and approved the terms of reference of the General Rapporteur on Democracy, and took note that the mandate would start in January 2024 (Appendix 3);

- **Election observation:**
 - Serbia: early parliamentary election (17 December 2023, tbc): subject to receiving an invitation and the confirmation of the date, decided to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-6; EPP/CD-6; ALDE-4; EC/DA-3; UEL-1), as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, and to conduct a pre-electoral mission;
 - **Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment:** took note of the letter by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and approved the designations of Mr Robert Biedron, Ms Sandra Konstatsky and Ms Iris Luarasi as the independent members of the Selection Panel;
 - **2023 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November):** approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee (Appendix 4);
 - **Conference on “Money and Democracy – an Uneasy Relationship” (Cologne, Germany, 7-8 December 2023):** approved the composition of the ad hoc committee and designated Mr Georges PAPANDREOU (Greece, SOC) as its chairperson (Appendix 5);
 - **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (14 October 2023 – 21 January 2024):** appointed Mr Tiny KOX (Netherlands, UEL) as rapporteur;
 - **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) - Lists of candidates in respect of Armenia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Romania:** approved the lists of candidates in respect of these countries to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers;
 - **Dates and places of next meetings:**

Monday 27 November 2023, 2.30 pm, Vaduz
Thursday 14 December 2023, 9.30 am, Paris.

Isild Heurtin, Greta Faggiani

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 – Follow-up to the fourth part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 9-13 October)

Debate on “The situation in the North of Kosovo* following the recent attack and the need for de-escalation”

- ❖ Follow up: decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Political Affairs and democracy for information

Debate on “Escalation of violence in the Middle-East following the recent Hamas attack on Israel”

- ❖ Follow up: decided to seize the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on this issue to be taken into account in the preparation of its report on “Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?”

* Throughout this text, all reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Appendix 2 – References and transmissions to committees

- Self-determination and territorial integrity in the 21st century, [Doc. 15816](#): transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for consultation*
- Sustainable European guidelines to counter social dumping and strengthen collective bargaining mechanisms, [Doc. 15823](#): reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

Appendix 3 - General rapporteur on democracy: Terms of reference¹

Denomination: General rapporteur on democracy

Term of office: One year, renewable once

Mandate: The general rapporteur on democracy ensures the visibility and coherence of the Assembly's actions to strengthen democracy, counter its backsliding and promote innovative practices to enhance citizens' trust in democratic institutions and their participation in political decision-making, in line with the Reykjavik Principles of Democracy and the approach endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the Fourth Council of Europe Summit (16-17 May 2023).

Responsibilities: The role of the general rapporteur is to:

- *enhance the capacity of the Assembly to identify and address emerging trends, tools, initiatives, challenges, and opportunities in the area of democracy, and enhance the quality of democratic life;*
- *follow activities and maintain relations with the Council of Europe organs, bodies and structures which deal with issues relating to democracy and the delivery of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy, representing the Assembly as appropriate;*
- *follow activities and maintain, when appropriate, relations with bodies and agencies of the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and with other international governmental and inter-parliamentary organisations;*
- *contribute to promoting the role of the Assembly as a platform to promote exchange of best practice and innovations in the area of democracy, establishing dialogue with civil society and non-governmental organisations with special expertise in this field, in Europe and beyond;*
- *enhance the external visibility and outreach of the work and role of the Assembly on democracy, including the follow-up and promotion of adopted resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly and, in appropriate cases, make public statements, launch appeals, or propose to do so to the committee.*

The general rapporteur on democracy periodically reports to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy.

¹ Terms of reference approved by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on 9 October 2023.

Appendix 4 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the 2023 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November)

Chairperson / Président

Mr Tiny KOX – President of the Parliamentary Assembly / Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy / Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA (Austria, EPP/CD)

Mr / M. George PAPANDREOU (Greece, SOC)

Ms / Mme Lesia VASYLENKO (Ukraine, ALDE)

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme

Mr / M. Ziya ALTUNYALDIZ (Türkiye, NR / Türkiye, NI)

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER (Switzerland, ALDE / Suisse, ALDE)

Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU (Cyprus, SOC / Chypre, SOC)

Mr / M. Yunus EMRE (Türkiye, SOC)

Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO (Ukraine, CE/AD / Ukraine, EC/DA)

Mr / M. Pablo HISPÁN (Spain EPP/CD / Espagne, PPE/DC)

Ms / Mme Zeynep YILDIZ (Türkiye, NR / Türkiye, NI)

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

Mr / M. Piero FASSINO (Italy, SOC / Italie, SOC)

Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO (Italy, ALDE / Italie, ADLE)

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

Mr / M. Armen GEVORGYAN (Armenia, EPP/CD / Arménie, PPE/DC)

Ms / Mme Ada MARRA (Switzerland, SOC / Suisse, SOC)

Mr / M. Simon MOUTQUIN (Belgium, SOC / Belgique, SOC)

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media / Commission de la culture, de la science, de l'éducation et des médias

Mr / M. Rafael HUSEYNOV (Azerbaijan, ALDE / Azerbaïdjan, ADLE)

Ms / Mme Mia KARAMEHIC-ABAZOVIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina, NR / Bosnie Herzégovine, NI)

Ms / Mme Nina KASIMATI (Greece, UEL / Grèce, GUE)

Ms / Mme Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE / Ukraine, ADLE)

Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC / Autriche, SOC)

Ms / Mme Eka SEPASHVILI (Georgia, EC/DA / Géorgie, CE/AD)

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / Commission sur l'égalité et sur la non-discrimination

Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN (Switzerland, ALDE / Suisse, ADLE)

Ms / Mme Mariia MEZENTSEVA (Ukraine, EPP/CD / Ukraine, PPE/DC)

Mr / M. Francesco VERDUCCI (Italy, SOC / Italie, SOC)

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons / Commission des migrations, des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées

Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ (Switzerland, SOC / Suisse, SOC)

Appendix 5 – List of members of the ad hoc committee to participate in the Conference on “Money and Democracy – an Uneasy Relationship” (7-8 December, Cologne, Germany)

Chairperson / Président : Mr / M. George PAPANDREOU (Greece, SOC / Grèce, SOC)

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l’homme

Mr /M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU (Cyprus SOC / Chypre SOC)

Mr / M. Pablo HISPÁN (Spain PPE/DC / Espagne EPP/CD)

Mr / M. Davor Ivo STIER (Croatia PPE/DC / Croatie EPP/CD)

Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) / Commission pour le respect des obligations et engagements des Etats membres du Conseil de l’Europe (Commission de suivi)

Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO (Italy, ALDE / Italie, ADLE)

Mr / M. Joseph O’REILLY (Ireland, EPP/CD / Irlande, PPE/DC)

Mr / M. George PAPANDREOU (Greece, SOC / Grèce SOC)

Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY (France, ALDE / France, ADLE)

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media / Commission de la culture, de la science, de l’éducation et des médias

Mr / M. Mogens JENSEN (Denmark, SOC / Danemark, SOC)

Mr / M. José María SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA (Spain, EC/DA / Espagne, CE/AD)

Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC / Autriche, SOC)

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy / Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

Ms / Mme Elisabetta GARDINI (Italy, EC/DA / Italie, CE/AD)

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / Commission sur l’égalité et sur la non-discrimination

Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN (Switzerland, ALDE / Suisse, ADLE)

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

Mr / M. David Morris (United Kingdom, EC/DA / Royaume Uni, CE/AD)