



SECRETARIAT

**AS/Bur (2023) CB 05**

28 April 2023

## To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

### Synopsis

### of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 28 April 2023

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Friday 28 April 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 second part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 24-28 April):** 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;
- **Standing Committee in Reykjavik (15 May 2023):** took note of the draft agenda;
- **Standing Committee in Riga (25-26 May 2023):** took note of the draft agenda and of the proposals by the Presidential Committee for the Standing Committee to hold current affairs debates on *The follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit* and on *Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics*;
- **Transmission for consultation by the Committee of Ministers on the 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:**
  - took note of the letter of 24 April 2023 from the President of the Ministers' Deputies, enclosing the decision, taken by the Ministers' Deputies on the same day at their 1464bis meeting under item 2.4 "Application for membership", to transmit to the Parliamentary Assembly for consultation the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe ([document DD\(2022\)200](#)), without prejudice to the Committee of Ministers' future consideration of this application to accede to the Council of Europe;
  - decided to refer the issue to the Committee of Political Affairs and Democracy for report, for the preparation of the statutory Opinion to the Committee of Ministers on the application for membership, and to the Committee of Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee of Equality and Non-Discrimination for opinion;
  - instructed the President of the Assembly to present at its next meeting, on 25 May in Riga, proposals for the appointment by the Bureau, on the same day, of two 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 2, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Elections observation**
  - Conference “Elections in times of crisis: challenges and opportunities” (Bern, 9-10 May 2023): approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to attend the conference (appendix 3);
  - Montenegro: Parliamentary elections (11 June 2023): approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (appendix 4) and appointed Mr Aleksander Pocij (EPP/CD, Poland) as its Chairperson;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
  - Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: took note of the letter by the committee and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to organise a Side Event at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, at the United Nations in New-York, on 18 July 2023;
  - Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination: took note of the letter by the committee, considered and approved the Rules for the Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment, which will replace the Parliamentary Assembly’s Gender Equality Prize, established pursuant to its Resolution 1593 (2007) (Appendix 5), and took note that the Prize would be launched at a special event in the margins of the Standing Committee in Reykjavik, on 15 May 2023;
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (28 April – 18 June 2023):** appointed Mr Iulian Bulai (Romania, ALDE) as rapporteur;
- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) - Lists of candidates in respect of Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Lithuania, San Marino:** approved the lists of candidates in respect of these countries to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the extension, until 30 June 2023, of the deadline to submit candidatures to the 2023 edition of the Prize;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee and of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs**
  - Monitoring Committee: on the basis of a proposal by the ALDE Group, nominated Ms Sabina ČUDIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as a member;
  - Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs: on the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, nominated Ms Catia POLIDORI (Italy) as a member;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg or Paris:**
  - authorised the ad hoc sub-committee on Western Balkans of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, to hold a meeting in Skopje, on 20 October 2023;
  - took note that the Presidential Committee would visit Kyiv before the 2023 June part-session, subject to receiving an invitation, and encouraged the rapporteurs with relevant mandates in the committees to assess the opportunity to pay fact-finding visits to Ukraine, in the framework of the preparation of their reports; in this context, decided to give no follow-up to the request by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for its ad hoc sub-committee to carry out a second fact-finding visit to Ukraine;

– **Date and place of next meeting:**

Thursday 25 May 2023, 3 pm, Riga  
Monday 19 June 2023, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)  
Friday 23 June 2023, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)  
Wednesday 13 September 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 Second part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 24-28 April)**

**Debate on #RoadToReykjavik**

- ❖ Follow up: decided to ask the Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE), to continue to follow the matter

**Debate on *Russia's role in escalating tensions in the Republic of Moldova***

- ❖ Follow up: decided to refer the matter to the Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the report on *The political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*

**Resolution 2492 (2023) on *Assessing the functioning of the partnership for democracy***

- ❖ Follow up: decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the report on *Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure*

**Resolution 2494 (2023) on *Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights***

- ❖ Follow up: decided to seize the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

## Appendix 2 – References and transmissions to committees

### A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

- Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression, [Doc. 15700](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*
- Bureau decision, Russia's role in escalating tensions in the Republic of Moldova: reference to the Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the report on *The political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*
- Bureau decision, Resolution 2492 (2023) Assessing the functioning of the partnership for democracy: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *to take into account* the proposals on amending the current Rules of Procedure in the report under preparation on *Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure*
- Bureau decision, Resolution 2494 (2023) Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*
- Bureau decision, Transmission for consultation by the Committee of Ministers on the 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: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*, for the preparation of the statutory Opinion to the Committee of Ministers on the application for membership, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*

### B. EXTENSION OF REFERENCES

- Respect for the rule of law and fight against corruption within the Council of Europe, [Doc. 15195](#), Reference 4556 of 25 January 2021 (extended on 1 February 2021) – validity: 25 July 2023: extension until 31 December 2023
- Establishment of a “youth partner” status with the Parliamentary Assembly, [Doc. 15262](#), Reference 4582 of 28 May 2021 – validity: 28 May 2023: extension until 28 November 2023.

**Appendix 3 – List of members of the ad hoc committee to attend the Conference “Elections in times of crisis: challenges and opportunities” (Bern, 9-10 May 2023)**

**Chairperson / Président :** Damien COTTIER (Switzerland, ALDE)

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

Mr / M. Adnan DIBRANI, Sweden / Suède  
Ms / Mme Róisín GARVEY, Ireland / Irlande  
Ms / Mme Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande  
Mr / M. Ion PRIOTEASA, Romania / Roumanie  
Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal  
Ms / Mme Jelena MILOŠEVIĆ, Serbia / Serbie  
Mr / M. Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro / Monténégro  
Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU, Cyprus / Chypre  
Ms / Mme Cécile HEMMEN, Luxembourg  
Mr / M. Haluk KOÇ, Türkiye

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

Mr / M. Lulzim BASHA, Albania / Albanie  
Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania / Roumanie  
Mr / M. Georg GEORGIEV, Bulgaria / Bulgarie  
Ms / Mme Sylvie GOY-CHAVENT, France  
Ms / Mme Arusyak JULHAKYAN, Armenia / Arménie  
Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche  
Ms / Mme Isabel MEIRELLES, Portugal  
Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚĂGÂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie  
Mr / M. Sergiy VLASENKO, Ukraine

*Substitutes / suppléant.e.s*

Mr / M. Yuri KAMELCHUK, Ukraine  
Mr / M. Kęstutis MASIULIS, Lithuania / Lituanie  
Mr / M. Jacek PROTASIEWICZ, Poland / Pologne  
Ms / Mme Denitsa SACHEVA, Bulgaria, Bulgarie  
Ms / Mme Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA, Bulgaria, Bulgarie

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

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse  
Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France  
Ms / Mme Lesia ZABURANNA, Ukraine  
Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie  
Mr / M. Andrii LOPUSHANSKYI, Ukraine

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

Mr / M. Ian PAISLEY, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni  
Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine  
Mr / M. Erkin GADIRLI, Azerbaijan  
Mr / M. Ahmet YILDIZ, Türkiye (NR/NI)  
Ms / Mme Emine Nur GÜNAY, Türkiye (NR/NI)

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

Mr / M. Anton GOMEZ-REINO, Spain / Espagne

*Substitutes / suppléant.e.s*

Ms / Mme Nina KASIMATI, Greece / Grèce

**Membres not belonging to a political group (NR) / Membres n'appartenant à aucun groupe politique (NI)**

Ms / Mme Serap YAŞAR, Türkiye

**Members of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission (ex officio) / Membres du Conseil des Elections Démocratiques de la Commission de Venise (ex officio)**

Mr / M. Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland / Pologne

Ms / Mme María Valentina MARTÍNEZ FERRO, Spain / Espagne

Mr / M. Davor Ivo STIER, Croatia / Croatie

*Substitutes / suppléant.e.s*

Ms / Ms Laura CASTEL, Spain / Espagne

Ms / Mme Khatia DEKANOIDZE, Georgia / Géorgie

**Appendix 4 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Montenegro (11 June 2023)**

**Chairperson / Président.e** : Mr/M. Aleksander POĆIEJ (EPP/CD, Poland)

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

Ms / Mme Cécile HEMMEN, Luxembourg  
Ms / Mme Kate OSBORNE, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni  
Mr / M. Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ, Croatia / Croatie  
Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal \*  
Mr / M. Adnan DIBRANI, Sweden / Suède  
Mr / M. Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI, San Marino / Saint-Marin

*Substitutes / suppléant.e.s*

Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France  
Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche  
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  
Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU, Cyprus / Chypre

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

Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche  
Mr / M. Joe O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande\*  
Mr / M. Aleksander POĆIEJ, Poland / Pologne\*  
Ms / Mme Jorida TABAKU, Albania / Albanie  
Zz.  
Zz.

**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. Mr Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne\*

Zz.

Zz.

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

Ms / Mme Nina KASIMATI, Greece / Grèce

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

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse

Mr / M. Nicos TORNARITIS, Cyprus / Chypre

**Accompanying person**

ZZ. for Kate OSBORNE

\*awaiting non-conflict of interest declaration / en attente de la déclaration de non-conflit d'intérêt

## **Appendix 5 – Rules for the Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment**

### **The Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment**

**To be launched in Reykjavík on the eve of the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of Council of Europe Member States (16-17 May 2023)**

The Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment takes its name from the first woman in the world to be elected President, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, elected President of Iceland in June 1980. Also a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, she is a shining example for women’s empowerment, and an inspiration for women today who are still striving for equality in all walks of life. Its aim is to reward outstanding initiatives promoting the empowerment of women in all their diversity, with a broad remit ranging from achievements in gender equality, in equal access to participation and decision making, to championing women’s opportunities and helping them to take their place in society, as well as action to encourage inclusive policies and practice.

Eligible candidates for the Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment are individuals or civil society groups, including national or international non-governmental organisations, associations and private companies. Current members of the Parliamentary Assembly and deceased individuals are not eligible. Prize-winners will be awarded a sum of 60.000 euros to finance action in the field that is conducted or supported by the Prize-winner, and a diploma, to be presented during each June part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly.

A call for candidates for the Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment will be launched each year in November, by submission of a letter to the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and a form signed by at least 5 sponsors. Once eligibility of the applications has been verified, a meeting of the Selection Panel will be held in spring in Reykjavík or in Strasbourg, on a rotation basis, to examine the candidacies and decide on a shortlist of three nominees to be submitted, for information, to the Bureau of the Assembly. The names of these nominees will be made public by the President of the Assembly. On the Sunday preceding the Assembly’s June part-session, the Selection Panel will meet in Strasbourg to decide on the winner of the Prize. The name of the Prize-winner will be announced by the President of the Assembly during a special ceremony to be held at the opening of the Assembly’s June part-session.

The Selection Panel of the Prize, chaired by the President of the Assembly or by a person designated by her or him, will be composed of six independent members with recognised standing in the field of women’s empowerment, three nominated by the Bureau of the Assembly upon the proposal of the Assembly’s Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and three nominated by the Government of Iceland. Current members of the Assembly cannot be members of the Selection Panel. They are appointed for a two-year period, renewable twice.

The Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment will replace the Parliamentary Assembly’s Gender Equality Prize, established pursuant to its Resolution 1593 (2007).

## **Appendix 1 – Revised regulations**

### **Regulations for the Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment**

#### **Article 1 – The Prize**

The Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment will be awarded by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe every year in order to reward outstanding initiatives promoting the empowerment of women in all their diversity, with a broad remit ranging from achievements in gender equality, in equal access to participation and decision making, to championing women’s opportunities and helping them to take their place in society, as well as action to encourage inclusive policies and practice.

#### **Article 2 – Award**

The Prize will consist of a sum of 60 000 euros to finance action in the field that is conducted or supported by the Prize-winner and a diploma.

#### **Article 3 – Eligibility**

Individuals or civil society groups, including national or international non-governmental organisations, associations and private companies may be nominated for the Prize. Current members of the Parliamentary Assembly and deceased individuals will not be eligible.

#### **Article 4 – Nominations**

4.1. Nominations for the Prize must reach the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly before 15 February each year. They will be signed by at least five sponsors, other than the nominee, on the special form appended to these Regulations.

4.2. Nominations will provide details of the nominee’s action to promote women’s empowerment and specify the reasons why the nominee’s action(s) can be considered to be outstanding. All relevant supporting documents will be provided.

4.3. Nominations may be submitted in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe.

#### **Article 5 – Selection Panel**

5.1. The Selection Panel, chaired by the President of the Assembly or a person designated by her or him, will be composed of six independent members with recognised standing in the field of women empowerment.

5.2. Three members of the Selection Panel will be nominated by the Bureau of the Assembly upon the proposal of the Assembly’s Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and three nominated by the Government of Iceland.

5.3. Current members of the Assembly cannot be members of the Selection Panel. They are appointed for a two-year period, renewable twice.

## **Article 6 – Decision on the Prize-winner**

6.1. The Selection Panel will decide on any conflict of interest concerning its members.

6.2. Once eligibility of the applications has been verified, a meeting of the Selection Panel will be held in spring in Reykjavík or in Strasbourg, on a rotation basis, to examine the candidacies and decide on a shortlist of three nominees to be submitted, for information, to the Bureau of the Assembly. The names of these nominees will subsequently be made public by the President of the Assembly.

6.3. In a second sitting on the Sunday preceding the Assembly's June part-session, the Selection Panel will meet in Strasbourg to decide on the winner of the prize. This decision will be taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

## **Article 7 – Award ceremony**

7.1. The name of the Prize-winner will be announced by the President of the Assembly during a special ceremony to be held at the opening of the Assembly's June part-session.

**Appendix 2 – Nomination form, Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment**

**VIGDÍS PRIZE FOR WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT 2024**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**Deadline: 15 February 2024**

Please read the regulations and instructions  
before completing this form

**Instructions**

Nominations must be submitted on this **form**.

Please fill in 1A if the nominee is an individual and 1B if the nominee is an institution, company or an organisation. All the other rubrics of the form should also be duly completed.

The nomination form (Word format) and the list of signatures of sponsors (PDF format), together with the supporting documents that you may wish to add, must be submitted in **English or French** and reach the Secretariat at the latest by 15 February 2024.

They should be sent by e-mail, to the following address: [vigdis.prize@coe.int](mailto:vigdis.prize@coe.int)

We will confirm receipt of your submission.

**1 A. Individual nominee:**

Please indicate the name and contact details of the person nominated

Title: [Mr, Mrs, Ms, other...]

Family name:

First name:

Date of birth:

Nationality:

Country of current residence:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Website/social media (if appropriate):

## **1 B – Institutions/companies/organisations**

Please provide contact and other details of the institution/company/organisation nominated

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Website/social media (if appropriate):

Main field of activity:

Country/ies in which it operates:

Year of establishment:

Status (*including potential link with governmental or other authorities, academia, political parties, etc.*):

## **2. Sponsors:**

Please indicate the name and contact details of at **least 5 persons / institutions / organisations** putting forward the nomination. In order to validate their nomination, the sponsors are asked to sign on the separate list of signatures of sponsors.

### **Main sponsor:**

Title: [Mr, Mrs, Ms, other...]

Family name:

First name:

Profession/occupation:

Capacity in which you know the nominee:

Nationality:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Website/social media (if appropriate):

**Other sponsor:**

Title: [Mr, Mrs, Ms, other...]

Family name:

First name:

Profession/occupation:

Capacity in which you know the nominee:

Nationality:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Website/social media (if appropriate):

**Other sponsor:**

Title: [Mr, Mrs, Ms, other...]

Family name:

First name:

Profession/occupation:

Capacity in which you know the nominee:

Nationality:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Website/social media (if appropriate):

**Other sponsor:**

Title: [Mr, Mrs, Ms, other...]

Family name:

First name:

Profession/occupation:

Capacity in which you know the nominee:

Nationality:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Website/social media (if appropriate):

**Other sponsor:**

Title: [Mr, Mrs, Ms, other...]

Family name:

First name:

Profession/occupation:

Capacity in which you know the nominee:

Nationality:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Website/social media (if appropriate):

**3. Description of the nominee's actions and specific merits for the empowerment of women:**

Please explain how the nominee has made an outstanding contribution to the empowerment of women. Indicate whether the nominee's actions have made a tangible difference in terms of gender equality, equal access to participation and decision making, championing women's opportunities and helping them to take their place in society. Please add any other information you deem relevant.

**(maximum one page in Arial 10pt)**

**4. Supporting documents:**

Please insert links to supporting documents (maximum 5).

If the supporting documents are not available on the internet please attach them to the form (electronic version if possible).

**5. Date:**