



SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2025) CB 14 rev

23 January 2026

To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Paris on 11 December 2025

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday, 11 December 2025, in Paris, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair:

- **Communication:** took note of the communication by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Dialogue with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** held an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Follow-up to the Standing Committee meeting (Chisinau, 21 November 2025):** approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **First part-session of 2026 (Strasbourg, 26-30 January):**
 - updated the preliminary draft agenda for the first part-session of 2026;
 - took note of the requests for the Assembly to hold debates under the urgent procedure on:
 - *65th anniversary of the European Social Charter*, at the request of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development;
 - *Ensuring accountability, humanitarian protection and respect for international law in Gaza and the West Bank after the ceasefire*, at the request of the UEL group;
 - *Preserving the integrity of the European Convention on Human Rights system*, at the request of the leaders of political groups;
 - took note of the request for the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on *Safeguarding the system of international justice* (at the request of the leaders of the political groups).
- **Resolution 2621 (2025) “Russian Democratic Forces”:** heard a statement by the President of the Assembly on the follow up to be given;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;

- **Election observation:**
 - *Assembly of Kosovo**: *Early elections (28 December 2025)*: in line with the written consultation of the 3 December 2025, approved the nomination of Mr Yunus EMRE (Türkiye, SOC) as Chairperson and Mr Georgios STAMATIS (Greece, EPP/CD) as Vice-Chairperson of the *ad hoc* committee and updated the list of members of the *ad hoc* Committee to observe these elections (Appendix 2);
- **Parliamentary and electoral co-operation activities:** took note of the work plan for 2026;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*: considered and approved the revised Terms of Reference for the General Rapporteur on the situation of women and children in the Palestinian territories;
 - *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*: took note of the decision by the Committee to extend the terms of reference of the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine by one year.
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly, and of the calendar of the 2026 edition and invited Bureau members to propose candidatures for the vacant seat in the Selection Panel and to submit the names and CVs of candidates together with justification of fulfilment of required condition (“recognised moral standing in the field of human rights”) to the Secretary General of the Assembly by 15 February 2026, in view of the Bureau taking a decision on the appointment at its meeting in March 2026.
- **Composition of thematic committees:** agreed that, for 2026, members of a committee whose appointment by their national delegation has been disputed on the grounds that it does not comply with the gender representation requirement shall sit provisionally on that committee with the same rights as other members until a new composition is submitted to the Assembly or the Standing Committee, and at the latest until the opening of the 2027 session;
- **Rules of confidentiality:** the President reminded members that all information pertaining to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *in camera* proceedings, including fact-finding visits by its co-rapporteurs, is strictly confidential and may not be disclosed or reported outside the committee.
- **Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the 2026 financial year:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Apportionment of the allocation to political groups for 2026:** approved the proposals contained in the document;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70) of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to meet in New York, United States, in March 2026 (dates tbc);
- **Date and place of next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Monday 26 January 2026, 8 h 00, Strasbourg (part-session);
 - Friday 30 January 2026, 8 h 30, Strasbourg (part-session);
 - Mercredi, 6 March 2026, 9 h 30, Paris.

Isild Heurtin

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary 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

* 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.

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

Appendix 1 : References and transmissions to committees

A. References to committees

- *Safe and legal migration pathways: enhancing and implementing good practices*, [Doc. 16279](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;
- *Towards a coherent European policy on veterans*, [Doc. 16280](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;
- *Climate action as a human and democratic responsibility*, [Doc. 16281](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;
- *Maritime interference and shadow fleets: a serious threat to security and the environment*, [Doc. 16282](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Baltic Sea security challenges"*;
- *The enforced disappearance of newborns, infants and children*, [Doc. 16285](#), Motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;
- *Protecting the freedom of expression of members of parliaments*, [Doc. 16290](#), Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion*;
- *Need for enhanced international co-operation on combatting human trafficking*, [Doc. 16291](#), Motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for consultation*;
- Bureau decision: *Citizens' mobilisation in the defence of human rights and democracy: recent developments in Latvia*: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on 'Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt'* and transmission to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media for information;
- Bureau decision: *Modification of various provisions of the Rules of Procedure*: reference to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities *for report*.

B. Requests for extension of references

- *Preserving European rural culture and heritage*, [Doc. 15974](#), Reference 4811 of 24 May 2024 – validity: 24 May 2026: extension until 31 December 2026.
- *Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies*, [Doc. 15905](#), Reference 4791 of 7 March 2024 – validity: 7 March 2026: extension until 30 June 2026.

C. Reply after consultation

- *The European Prisons Charter*, [Doc. 16209](#): no further action

Appendix 2: List of members of the Ad Hoc committee for the observation of the early elections to the Assembly of Kosovo*: 28 December

Chairperson / Président : Mr / M. Yunus EMRE (Türkiye, SOC)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-Président : Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS (Greece, EPP/CD) / Grèce, PPE/DC)

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

Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye

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

Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce

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European Conservatives, Patriots & Affiliates (ECPA) / Conservateurs européens, Patriotes et Affiliés (CEPA)

Mr / M. Malte KAUFMANN, Germany / Allemagne

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

Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye

Ms / Mme Sabina ĆUDIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine

Mr / M. Stephen GETHINS, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France

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

Mr / M. Arnaldo LOMUTI, Italy / Italie

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† In line with paragraph 14 of the [Guidelines for the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly](#), the SOC group has allocated its vacant seats to the ALDE group on 3 December 2025.