

SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2026) CB 04

21 April 2026

To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 20 April 2026

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday, 20 April 2026, in Strasbourg, with Ms Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:**
 - took note of the communication by the President of the Assembly;
 - held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Second part-session of 2026 (Strasbourg, 20-24 April):**
 - took note of the requests to hold debates under urgent procedure on:
 - *Opinion on the draft additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism*: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and to refer the matter to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human rights *for report*;
 - *Suspension of Israel's observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in light of systemic violations of international law*: decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;
 - *Addressing Israel's death penalty law in Occupied Palestinian territories in the context of Council of Europe standards*: decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;
 - took note of the requests to hold current affairs debates on:
 - *Accountability and justice: a call to step up efforts for the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine*: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC) as the first speaker;
 - *The need for the respect of international law, peace and stability in the broader Middle East*: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) as the first speaker;
 - updated the draft agenda, and decided to reduce the speaking time to 2 minutes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday;
 - Joint Committee (Strasbourg, 20 April 2026): prepared the meeting of the Joint Committee;
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly (30 January – 19 April 2026)** (Rapporteur: Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD)): approved the Progress report ([Doc. 16377](#));

- **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; and in particular as regards “*A strong response to the Epstein files: ensuring full transparency and accountability*”, Doc. 16381, motion for a resolution: decided to refer it to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*, and to invite the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to contribute to its preparation;
- **Election observation:**
 - Assembly of Kosovo*: Early elections (28 December 2025): approved the report of the observation mission (Doc. 16380);
 - Hungary: Parliamentary elections (12 April 2026): took note of the statement of the delegation;
 - Armenia (7 June 2026): approved the revised list of members (Appendix 2);
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2026:** approved the proposals as set out in appendix 3;
- **Issued raised by committees:**
 - Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: took note of the Committee’s decision to discontinue the mandate of the General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport;
 - Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: accepted to extend the additional rights granted to the Partner for Democracy delegation of Morocco for the 2025 session of the Assembly, as provided in sub-paragraphs 65.7.a to 65.7.e. of the Rules of Procedure, to the 2026 session of the Assembly;
- **Composition of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:**
 - On the basis of a proposal by the Group of the EPP/CD, nominated Ms Regina Bastos (Portugal) as a member;
- **Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2026:** approved the proposals as set out in appendix 4;
- **Resolution 2094 (2016) on the situation in Kosovo* and the role of the Council of Europe:** took note of the letter by the President of the Assembly of Kosovo* informing the President of the Assembly of the names of the members of the delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo* for the 2026 ordinary session and approved the list of the delegation:

Members:

- Mr Ardian Gola, Self-Determination Movement, Head of Delegation
- Ms Vlora Çitaku, Democratic Party of Kosovo
- Ms Emilija Redžepi, Parliamentary Group “Multiethnic”

Substitutes:

- Ms Jehona Lushaku, Democratic League of Kosovo
- Mr Besnik Tahiri, Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
- ZZ

- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised:
 - The Special committee on the New Democratic Pact to meet in Kristiansand (Norway), on 4 and 5 May 2026;
- **Date and place of next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Friday 24 April 2026, 8 h 30, Strasbourg (part session);
 - Thursday 21 May 2026, 14 h 30, Monaco.

Isild Heurtin, Greta Faggiani

* 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.

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 of Local and Regional Authorities
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 to committees

A. References to committees

- *Fulfilling and respecting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination*, [Doc. 16340](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Situation in the Middle East”*;
- *Protecting lakes as natural and cultural heritage and as a strategic resource for people in the face of the triple planetary crisis*, [Doc. 16342](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*;
- *Towards a Euro-Atlantic strategy for the Arctic in support of the rules-based international order*, [Doc. 16348](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;
- *A more democratic review of the process for electing the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*, [Doc. 16350](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities *for information*;
- *Measures to combat the rise in sexual and domestic violence against children and women in Europe*, [Doc. 16351](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for information*;
- *Attacks on the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe: a threat to democracy*, [Doc. 16354](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;
- *Remittances by migrant workers and diasporas and their benefits for countries of origin and host countries*, [Doc. 16355](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation *for report*;
- *Unaccompanied foreign minors in the context of migration: the need for common standards in full respect of children’s rights*, [Doc. 16356](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation *for report*;
- *Peace and security in the emerging global order*, [Doc. 16357](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;
- *The security of critical infrastructure as a pillar of democratic stability in Europe*, [Doc. 16358](#), motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;
- *Strengthening safeguards against the misuse of dual-use goods by authoritarian regimes*, [Doc. 16359](#), request for an opinion from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;
- *Addressing culture as a foundation for the democratisation of Belarus*: [Doc. 16364](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*;
- *Food challenges and responses: the experience of Morocco*, [Doc. 16365](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;
- *A strong response to the Epstein files: ensuring full transparency and accountability*, [Doc. 16381](#), motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

B. Extension of references

- *Violent pornography*, [Doc. 15972](#), motion for a resolution, reference 4809 of 19 April 2024 – validity: 19 April 2026: extension until 30 June 2026.
- *Artificial intelligence and gender equality: risks and challenges*, [Doc. 15986](#), motion for a resolution, reference 4816 of 24 June 2024 – validity: 24 June 2026: extension until 24 December 2026.

Appendix 2 – Revised list of members of the *ad hoc* Committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Armenia (7 June 2026)

Chairperson / Président : Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président : Lord David BLENCATHRA, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

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

Mr / M. Christophe CHAILLOU, France
Mr / M. Cerni ESCALE CABLE, Andorra / Andorre
Ms / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal
Mr / M. Dimitrios MANTZOS, Greece / Grèce
Ms / Mme Luz MARTINEZ SEIJO, Spain / Espagne
Ms / Mme Wanda NOWICKA, Poland / Pologne
Mr / M. Roberto SPERANZA, Italy / Italie*

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Norway / Norvège
Mr / M. Nuno FAZENDA, Portugal
Ms / Mme Aurora FLORIDIA, Italy / Italie
Mr / M. Julien JOSWIG, Germany / Allemagne
Ms / Mme Marietta KARAMANLI, France
Ms / Mme Bisera KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
Ms / Mme Saskia KLUIT, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Ms / Mme Annick LAMBRECHT, Belgium / Belgique
Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France
Mr / M. Yvan RACAN, Croatia / Croatie
Mr / M. Namik TAN, Türkiye

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

Mr / M. Ricardo CARVALHO, Portugal
Ms / Mme Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER, Austria / Autriche
Mr / M. Tekke PANMAN, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce*
ZZ

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

Mr / M. Joseph O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande
Ms / Mme Albana VOKSHI, Albania / Albanie

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

Lord David BLENCATHRA, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
Mr / M. Malte KAUFMANN, Germany / Allemagne*
Mr / M. Zsolt NÉMETH, Hungary / Hongrie
Ms / Mme Victoria TIBLOM, Sweden / Suède

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

Ms / Mme Alicia KEARNS, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
Mr / M. José María SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA, Spain / Espagne

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

Mr / M. Olivier BITZ, France
Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse*
Ms / Mme Lesia ZABURANNA, Ukraine

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie
Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie
Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France
Ms / Mme Tamila TASHEVA, Ukraine
Ms / Mme Ryan VOGELS, Netherlands, Pays-Bas

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

Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL, Spain / Espagne*

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

Ms / Mme Boriانا ÅBERG (Sweden, Suède / EPP/CD / PPE/DC)*

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

Accompanying person / Personnes accompagnantes

Lady Tara BLENCATHRA, accompanying Lord David BLENCATHRA

* Pre-electoral mission / mission préélectorale

Appendix 3 – Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2026**Preliminary proposals for dates*****Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Assembly**

Monday 26 January, 8 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 30 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 2 March, 11 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 20 April, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 24 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 21 May, 2.30 pm, Monaco	Bureau
Friday 22 May, 10.00 am, Monaco (CM Presidency)	Standing Committee
Monday 22 June, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 26 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 3 September, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 28 September, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 2 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 26 November, 3 pm, Montenegro	Bureau
Friday 27 November, 9.30 am, Montenegro	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 7 December, 9.30 am, Vienna	Bureau

** Dates of meetings due to be held elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris are subject to the agreement of the Parliament of the country concerned.

Appendix 4 – Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2026

Body / Organe	Reference / référence	Members / membres	Substitutes / remplaçant-es
I. Council of Europe bodies / Organes du Conseil de l'Europe			
European Commission for Democracy through Law Venice Commission <i>Commission européenne pour la démocratie par le droit Commission de Venise</i>	Article 2.4 of the Venice Commission Statute Res(2002)3 <i>Article 2.4 du statut de la Commission de Venise Res(2002)3</i>	Titus CORLĂȚEAN Romania / Roumanie SOC (AS/Jur)	Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS Greece / Grèce EPP/CD / PPE/DC Appointment by the President Lord Richard KEEN United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni ECPA / CEPA (AS/Jur)
Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission <i>Conseil des élections démocratiques de la Commission de Venise</i>	Bureau decision of 10 March 2003 <i>Décision du Bureau du 10 mars 2003</i>	Pablo HISPÁN Spain / Espagne EPP/CD / PPE/DC (AS/Jur) Rian VOGELS Netherlands / Pays-Bas ADLE / ALDE (AS/Pol) Laura CASTEL Spain / Espagne UEL / GUE (AS//Mon)	Bisera KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord SOC (AS/Jur) David BLENCATHRA United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni ECPA / CEPA (AS/Pol) Liliana TANGUY France ALDE / ADLE (AS//Mon)
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North-South Centre <i>Centre européen pour l'interdépendance et la solidarité mondiales – Centre Nord-Sud</i>	Article 4.2 (b) of the North-South Centre revised Statute CM/Res(2011)6 <i>Article 4.2 (b) du statut révisé du Centre Nord-Sud CM/Res(2011)6</i>	Ionuț-Marian STROE Romania / Roumanie EPP/CD / PPE/DC (AS/Mig) Carmen LEYTE Spain / Espagne EPP/CD / PPE/DC (AS/Soc)	Larysa BILOZIR Ukraine ALDE / ADLE (AS/Soc)
European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance ECRI <i>Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance ECRI</i>	Article 5 of the ECRI Statute Res(2002)8 <i>Article 5 du statut de l'ECRI Res(2002)8</i>	Ionuț-Marian STROE Romania / Roumanie EPP/CD / PPE/DC (AS/Pol) Zeynep YILDIZ Türkiye NR / NI (AS/Cult) Lucia PLAVÁKOVÁ Slovak Republic / République slovaque ALDE / ADLE (AS/Cult)	Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT Türkiye NR / NI (AS/Pol) Ruth HUNT United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni SOC (AS/Cult)
Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) <i>Groupe d'états contre la corruption (GRECO)</i>	CM decision of 717th meeting in 2000 in accordance with Article 7.2 of the Statute of the GRECO <i>Décision du CM lors de la 717ème réunion en 2000 selon l'Article 7.2. du Statut du GRECO</i>	Arusyak JULHAKYAN Armenia / Arménie EPP/CD / PPE/DC (AS/Jur)	Oana MURARIU Romania / Roumanie ALDE / ADLE (AS/Jur)

Body / Organe	Reference / référence	Members / membres	Substitutes / remplaçant·es
Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI) <i>Comité d'expert·e·s sur l'intelligence artificielle, l'égalité et la discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI)</i>	CM/Res(2021)3	Lucia PLAVÁKOVÁ Slovak Republic / République slovaque ALDE / ADLE (AS/Ega)	
Committee for Works of Art (C-ART) <i>Comité des œuvres d'art (C-ART)</i>	CM decision of 482nd meeting in 1992 <i>Décision du CM lors de la 482ème réunion en 1992</i>	Constantinos EFSTATHIOU Cyprus / Chypre SOC (AS/Cult)	Luz MARTINEZ SEIJO Spain / Espagne SOC (AS/Cult)
MONEYVAL	Article 4.1 of Resolution CM/Res (2010) 12 <i>Article 4.1 de la Résolution CM/Res (2010) 12</i>	Nadejda IORDANOVA Bulgaria / Bulgarie NR / NI (AS/Jur)	Atidzhe ALIEVA-VELI Bulgaria / Bulgarie ECPA / CEPA (AS/Jur)
Committee on offences relating to cultural property (PC-IBC) / Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) <i>Comité sur les infractions visant les biens culturels (PC-IBC) / Comité directeur de la culture, du patrimoine et du paysage (CDCPP)</i>	STCE n°221 CM(2017)32, Chapter V, Article 23.1 SG/Inf(2012)12	Yevheniia KRAVCHUK Ukraine ALDE / ADLE (AS/Cult)	
II. Others / Autres			
EUROPA NOSTRA Pan-European Federation for Heritage <i>EUROPA NOSTRA - Fédération paneuropéenne du patrimoine</i>	Article 21.4 of the Statute of Europa Nostra	Andries GRYFFROY Belgium / Belgique ALDE / ADLE (AS/Cult)	