

AS/Soc (2024) CB02
28 March 2024

To the members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Synopsis of the meetings held in Paris on 25 and 26 March 2024

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Paris, on **Monday, 25 March 2024**, with Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, EC/DA), Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **The protection of children against online violence** (*Rapporteur: Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended and a draft recommendation, with a view to presenting the report for debate during the second part-session of the Assembly in April 2024;
- **Towards Council of Europe healthy seas and oceans strategies against the climate crisis** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Ukraine, ALDE*): modified the title of the report to read "Towards Council of Europe strategies for healthy seas and oceans to counter the climate crisis", considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, with a view to presenting the report for debate during the second part-session of the Assembly in April 2024;
- **Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavík process** (*Rapporteur: Mr Simon Moutquin, Belgium, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Mr Rafael Benitez, Director of the Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment of the Council of Europe, considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended and a draft recommendation, with a view to presenting the report for debate during the second part-session of the Assembly in April 2024;
- **The Council of Europe Development Bank: implementing the Reykjavik Declaration** (*Rapporteur: Ms Eka Sepashvili, Georgia, EC/DA*): considered an introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views with Mr Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank;
- **The European Social Charter: outlook for social rights after the Reykjavik Summit**: heard a statement by the Chairperson on the High-level Conference on the European Social Charter to be held on 3-4 July 2024 in Vilnius (Lithuania) and held an exchange of views with Ambassador Joan Forner Rovira, Permanent Representative of Andorra to the Council of Europe and Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group of the Committee of Ministers on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC);
- **Promoting universal health coverage** (*Rapporteur: Ms Heike Engelhardt, Germany, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour** (*Rapporteur: Ms Eka Sepashvili, Georgia, EC/DA*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Detention of the "socially maladjusted"** (*Rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered a draft report;

– **Committee's work programme and priorities:**

- appointed Committee representatives to external events as follows (*subject to the availability of funds*):
 - Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE), Ms Saskia Kluit (the Netherlands, SOC) and Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) for the Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, 3-4 April 2024, Paris;
 - Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC), Ms Minna Reijonen (Finland, EC/DA), Mr Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, EC/DA) for the Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to visit the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other Geneva-based international organisations in the framework of the follow-up to Resolution 2529 (2024) on "The situation of the children of Ukraine" (date to be decided);
 - Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL) for the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA), 27 May – 1 June 2024, Geneva;
- appointed rapporteurs as follows:
 - Mr Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) as rapporteur on "Social mobilisation, social unrest, and police reaction in Council of Europe member States: need for a new social contract?", and heard his declaration of absence of conflicts of interest;
 - Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD) as rapporteur on "Long Covid" and access to the right to health";
 - Ms Elena Bonetti (Italy, ALDE) as general rapporteur on child participation, and heard her declaration of absence of conflicts of interest;
- heard reports from Committee representatives to external events as follows:
 - Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) on the 41st meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee), 13-15 February 2024, Strasbourg;
 - Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC) on the 10th meeting of the Drafting Group on Human Rights and Environment (CDDH-ENV), 19-21 March 2024, Strasbourg;
- **Changes in sub-committees:** approved the following changes:
 - **Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize:** Mr Kestutis Masiulis (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Ms Danuta Jazłowiecka (Poland, EPP/CD), Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) and Mr Rostyslav Tistyk (Ukraine, EC/DA) became full members;
 - **Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter:** Ms Eka Sepashvili (Georgia, EC/DA) became a full member;
- **Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize:** heard an account by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the meetings held in Strasbourg on 25 January 2024 and in Paris on 25 March 2024, and approved the decision of the Sub-Committee to amend the Rules on the Europe Prize;
- **Other business:**
 - took note of the deadlines for the nominations for the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize](#);
 - instructed the Chairperson to send a letter to the PACE Bureau asking for the prolongation of reference for report on "Analysis and guidelines for a sustainable and socially fair energy transition";

– **Date and place of next meetings:**

Plenary committee

- Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg
- Monday, 3 June 2024, Paris OR elsewhere (*to be confirmed*)
- Third part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 24-28 June 2024, Strasbourg
- Friday, 13 September 2024, Paris (Council of Europe Office)
- Fourth part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 30 September – 4 October 2024, Strasbourg
- Friday, 6 December 2024, Paris (Council of Europe Office)

Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment

- Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg
- Tuesday, 4 June 2024, Paris OR elsewhere (*to be confirmed*)
- Third part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 24-28 June 2024, Strasbourg
- Fourth part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 30 September – 4 October 2024, Strasbourg

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize

- Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg
- Third part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 24-28 June 2024, Strasbourg

Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter

- Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg

Sub-Committee on Children

- Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg

Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development

- Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg

The Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, meeting in Paris, on **Monday, 25 March 2024**, with Mr Christian Petry (Germany, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Proposal to amend the rules on the Europe Prize:** considered and adopted a proposal to amend the Rules on the Europe Prize;
- **Date and place of next meetings:**
 - Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg (*in camera*)
 - Third part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 24-28 June 2024, Strasbourg

The Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter, meeting in Paris, on **Monday, 25 March 2024**, with first Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD), oldest member present, and then Mr Paul Galles (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), elected Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:** elected, by acclamation, Mr Paul Galles (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) Chairperson of the Sub-Committee;
- **The work of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC) - follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit:** heard a statement by the Chairperson on the holding of the High-level Conference on the European Social Charter to be held on 3-4 July 2024 in Vilnius (Lithuania);
- **Date and place of next meetings:**
 - Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg

The Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment, meeting in Paris, on **Tuesday, 26 March 2024**, with Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Mainstreaming the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment: key concepts in European and international law:** held a public hearing with:
 - Ms Elisabeth Lambert, Research Director at CNRS - *Centre national de la recherche scientifique*, Nantes (France);
 - Ms Annalisa Savaresi, Professor at University of Stirling (United Kingdom) and Associate Professor, University of Eastern Finland;

- Ms Corina Heri, Postdoctoral researcher, Faculty of Law, Zurich University (Switzerland).
- ***Transforming our modes of governance to adapt our laws, policies and action:*** held a public hearing with above mentioned experts;
- carried out a field visit to Guy Toffeletti social centre in Bagnolet in the framework of the Programme Just Transition by the NGO MakeSense with youth activists;
- ***Date and place of next meetings:***
 - Second part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 15-19 April 2024, Strasbourg
 - Tuesday, 4 June 2024, Paris OR elsewhere *(to be confirmed)*
 - Third part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 24-28 June 2024, Strasbourg
 - Fourth part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 30 September – 4 October 2024, Strasbourg

Catherine Du Bernard, Aiste Ramanauskaite, Jannick Devaux, Claire Dubois-Hamdi

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Director 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