

SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2024) CB 02  
7 March 2024

## To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 5 March 2024

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 5 March 2024, with Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Promoting the revised Code of Good Practice on Referendums** (*rappporteur: Ms Isabel Meirelles, Portugal, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution;
- **Relationship between the parliamentary majority and the opposition in a democracy** (*rappporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution as amended;
- **Statutory Opinion 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** (*rappporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur following her fact-finding visit to Brussels on 21 February 2024, considered an Information note, and held an exchange of views;
- **Death of Alexei Navalny – Current situation in Russia**: held an exchange of views;
- **General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus**: approved the terms of reference of a General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus, and decided to transmit them to the Bureau of the Assembly in line with rule 50.7 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
- **Strengthening democracy through participatory and deliberative processes** (*rappporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and held a hearing with the participation of Ms Kalypso Nicolaïdis, Transnational Democratic Odyssey, Chair in Global Affairs, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute (Italy), Emeritus professor, University of Oxford (United Kingdom), and her collaborator Mr Niccolò Milanese, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Call for Famagusta's return to its lawful inhabitants** (*rappporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur following his fact-finding visit to Ankara on 15 February 2024 and held an exchange of views;
- **The situation in Iran and protection of Iranian human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States** (*rappporteur: Mr Max Lucks, Germany, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Nargess Eskandari-Grünberg, Deputy Mayor of the City of Frankfurt am Main and Head of the Department for Diversity, Anti-Discrimination and Social Cohesion, and Mr Ali Fathollah-Nejad, Director of the Center for Middle East and Global Order (CMEG), Berlin, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Meeting of the Committee in Oslo**: took note of the preliminary draft programme and the practical information;

- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees:** agreed to the changes in the composition of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and Arab World, the Sub-Committee on External Relations, and the Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans (as indicated in bold in the appendix);
- **Work programme:**
  - **Call for candidate for reports:** called for candidates for the following reports:
    - Situation in the Middle East
    - Situation in Belarus
  - **Appointment of the institutional representatives of the Committee:**
    - appointed, by acclamation, Mr Max Lucks (Germany, SOC) as the institutional representative of the Committee in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR) as his substitute;
  - **Appointment of Committee representatives:**
    - appointed, by acclamation, Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) as its representative to participate in the meeting of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) (Strasbourg, 13 and 14 May 2024);
    - subject to the setting up of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network (Paris, 3 and 4 April 2024), appointed Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) and Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) as well as, subject to the availability of seats, Mr Yıldırım Tuğrul Türkeş (Türkiye, NR) and Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE);
    - took note of the appointment of the following members to the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Women Political Leaders Summit “Democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century” (Athens, 19-21 March 2024):
      - Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC)
      - Ms Pauline Latham (United Kingdom, EC/DA)
      - Ms Carla Moonen (Netherlands, ALDE)
      - Ms Biljana Pantić Pilja (Serbia, EPP/CD)
      - Ms Dunja Simonović Bratić (Serbia, SOC)
      - Ms Oleksandra Ustinova (Ukraine, ALDE)
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised:
  - Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), rapporteur on “Interconnections between the Council of Europe and the European Political Community” to conduct a fact-finding visit to London in the framework of the preparation of his report;
  - Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Latvia, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe” to conduct a fact-finding visit to Riga and Helsinki in the framework of the preparation of her report;
  - Mr Max Lucks (Germany, SOC), rapporteur on “The situation in Iran and protection of Iranian human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States” to conduct a fact-finding visit to London in the framework of the preparation of his report;
  - Mr Lulzim Basha (Albania, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine” to participate in the side-event “Achievements in pursuing accountability since two years of a full-scale invasion of Ukraine” to be held in New York (United States) on 8 March 2024 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau and at no cost for the Assembly);

- **Other business:** took note of the press release concerning the call for nominations for the 2024 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize and the deadline of 30 April 2024 for the submission of nominations;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the meetings in 2024 to be held as follows:
  - April part-session (15-19 April 2024), Strasbourg
  - 30 and 31 May 2024, Oslo
  - June part-session (24-28 June 2024), Strasbourg
  - 9 September 2024, Paris
  - October part-session (30 September to 4 October 2024), Strasbourg
  - 11 December 2024, Paris

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The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World**, meeting in Paris on Tuesday 5 March 2024, with first Mr Bertrand Bouyx (ALDE, France), then Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) Chairperson, and decided to postpone the election of the Vice-Chairperson to the April part-session 2024;
- **Future work:** heard a statement by its Chairperson and, following an exchange of views, agreed on the need to hold a meeting during the April part-session 2024 to discuss the situation in Gaza;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on External Relations**, meeting in Paris on Tuesday 5 March 2024, with first Mr Bertrand Bouyx (ALDE, France), then Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) Chairperson, and decided to postpone the election of the Vice-Chairperson to the April part-session 2024;
- **Future work:** heard a statement by its Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans**, meeting in Paris on Tuesday 5 March 2024, with Mr Bertrand Bouyx (ALDE, France) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:** elected, following a vote, Mr Alexis Tsipras (Greece, UEL) Chairperson, and decided to postpone the election of the Vice-Chairperson to the April part-session 2024;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Ágnes Kertész, Pavel Chevtchenko

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

## Appendix

05/03/2024

**Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient et le monde arabe  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

### Chairperson / Président

M. FASSINO Piero (SOC) Italy / Italie

### Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e

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### Full Members / Titulaires

1.	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie
2.	Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche
3.	Mr MOUTQUIN Simon (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique
4.	Mr LOUCAIDES (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre
5.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France
6.	<b>Mr LUCKS Max (SOC)</b>	<b>Germany / Allemagne</b>
7.	Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)	Greece / Grèce
8.	Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande
9.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie
10.	M. FASSINO Piero (SOC)	Italy / Italie
11.	<b>Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)</b>	<b>Lithuania / Lituanie</b>
12.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg
13.	Mr WILDERS Geert (NR)	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
14.	Mr Krzysztof TRUSKOLASKI (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
15.	Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal
16.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie
17.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie
18.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne
19.	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse
20.	Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT (NR)	Türkiye
21.	Mr SHEPPARD Tommy (NR)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
22.	Mr SOBOLIEV Serhii (EPP/CD)	Ukraine
23.	Ms VASYLENKO Lesia (ALDE)	Ukraine
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### Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s

Ms Van VAERENBERGH Kristien (NR)

**Mr ULLRICH Volker (EPP/CD)**  
Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)

Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)

M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)  
Mr KOÇAK Konur Alp (NR)  
Mr MORRIS David (EC/DA)  
Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)

*Ex officio:* M. Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE)

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy  
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

05/03/2024

**Sub-Committee on External Relations**  
*of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*

**Sous-commission des relations extérieures**  
*de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie*

29 seats / 29 sièges

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Présidente**

Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC) France

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e**

...

**Full Members / Membres titulaires**

**Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s**

1.	Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)
2.	Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
3.	Ms BALIĆ Marijana (EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie	
4.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	
5.	Mr BOUCHEZ Georges-Louis (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	Mr DAEMS Rik (ALDE)
6.	Mr BENEŠIK Ondřej (EPP/CD)	Czechia/ Tchèque	
7.	Mr KILJUNEN Kimmo (SOC)	Finland / Finlande	
8.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France	M. MARIE Didier (SOC)
9.	Mr MIKANADZE Givi (SOC)	Georgia / Géorgie	
10.	<b>Mr FUNKE Fabian (SOC)</b>	<b>Germany / Allemagne</b>	<b>Ms DAĞDELEN Sevim (UEL)</b>
11.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios (EPP/CD)
12.	Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EC/DA)	Hungary / Hongrie	
13.	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)
14.	Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	
15.	<b>Mr LYDEKA Arminas (ALDE)</b>	<b>Lithuania / Lituanie</b>	<b>Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)</b>
16.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg	
17.	Ms Maja VUKIČEVIĆ (NR)	Montenegro / Monténégro	Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)
18.	Mr Krzysztof TRUSKOLASKI (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
19.	Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal	Mme MEIRELLES Isabel (EPP/CD)
20.	Mr STROE Ionuț-Marian (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)
21.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	
22.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)
23.	Ms ÅBERG Boriána (EPP/CD)	Sweden / Suède	
24.	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse	M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)
25.	Mr TÜRKES Yıldırım Tuğrul (NR)	Türkiye	Mr TAN Namık (SOC)
26.	Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)
27.	Lord BLENCATHRA David (EC/DA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
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*Ex officio:* M. Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE)

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Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

05/03/2024

**Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur les Balkans occidentaux  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

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**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e**

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1.	Ms GJYLAMETI Blerina (SOC)	Albania / Albanie	
2.	Mr BUCHMANN Christian (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
3.	Mr BOUCHEZ Georges-Louis (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	Mr MOUTQUIN Simon (SOC)
4.	Ms NOVAKOVIĆ BURSAC' Snježana (NR)	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine	
5.	Ms BALIĆ Marijana (EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie	
6.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France	M. CADEC Alain (EPP/CD)
7.	Mme TANGUY Liliana (ALDE)	France	
8.	<b>Mr SCHÄFER Axel (SOC)</b>	<b>Germany / Allemagne</b>	
9.	Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)	Greece / Grèce	Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)
10.	Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EC/DA)	Hungary / Hongrie	Mr ARATÓ Gergely (SOC)
11.	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
12.	Mr DREOSTO Marco (EC/DA)	<b>Italy / Italie</b>	<b>Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)</b>
13.	Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	
14.	<b>Mr LYDEKA Arminas (ALDE)</b>	<b>Lithuania / Lituanie</b>	
15.	<b>Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)</b>
16.	Mr KAEVSKI Darko (SOC)	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord	
17.	Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)	Malta / Malte	
18.	Ms VUKIĆEVIĆ Maja (NR)	Montenegro / Monténégro	Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)
19.	Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
20.	Mr MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus (EC/DA)	Romania / Roumanie	Ms DMITREA Dumitrina (EC/DA)
21.	Ms SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie	Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)
22.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	
23.	Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (EPP/CD)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)
24.	Mr TAN Namik (SOC)	Türkiye	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)
25.	Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	
26.	<b>Lord BLENCATHRA David (EC/DA)</b>	<b>United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni</b>	
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