

SECRETARIAT

**AS/Bur (2023) CB 04**

24 April 2023

## To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

### Synopsis

### of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 24 April 2023

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Monday 24 April 2023, in Strasbourg, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and held an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General;
- **Second part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 24-28 April):**
  - took note of a letter addressed by the Commissioner for Human Rights to the President of the Assembly in reply to his request for information ahead of the presentation of her annual activity report 2022 before the Assembly;
  - Request for a debate under urgent procedure: took note of the request to hold a debate on
    - *The situation of Ukrainian civilians, including children, forcibly displaced or transferred to the Russian Federation or Ukrainian territories under the de facto control of the Russian Federation*, tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons on the basis of a report with the same title currently being prepared by the Committee, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and to refer the matter to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons for report and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for opinion;
  - Requests for current affairs debates: took note of the requests to hold debates on
    - *#RoadToReykjavik*, tabled by the leaders of the political groups, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) as the first speaker;
    - *Russia's role in escalating tensions in the Republic of Moldova*, tabled by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris and other members of the Assembly, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Mr Aleksander Pociąg (Poland, EPP/CD) as the first speaker;
  - Draft agenda: updated the draft agenda of the part-session;
  - Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights: took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on the election of judges following interviews with candidates for the post of a judge in respect of Romania, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report ([Doc. 15745 Add. 2](#));

- Joint Committee (Strasbourg, 26 April 2023): prepared the meeting of the Joint Committee;
- **4th Council of Europe Heads of State and Government Summit (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023):** agreed that the Assembly would be represented by the Presidential Committee and the rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs Committee on “The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges”;
- **Meeting of the Standing Committee in Reykjavik (15 May 2023):** took note of the draft agenda;
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (27 January - 23 April 2023):** approved the Progress report ([Doc. 15745](#));
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Election observation**
  - Montenegro: Presidential election (19 March 2023): approved the report by the observation mission;
  - Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (2 April 2023): took note of the statement by the observation mission;
  - Conference “Elections in times of crisis: challenges and opportunities” (Bern, 9-10 May 2023): took note of the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to attend the conference (Appendix 2);
  - Türkiye: Presidential and parliamentary elections (14 May 2023): took note of the statement by the pre-electoral delegation and of the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 3);
  - Montenegro: parliamentary elections (11 June 2023): subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-6; EPP/CD-6; ALDE-4; EC/DA-3; UEL-1), as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
  - Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: took note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists, in Riga on 5-6 October 2023, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
  - Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: considered and approved the terms of reference of the General Rapporteur for political prisoners (appendix 4), subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Composition of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:** on the basis of a proposal by the group ALDE, appointed Ms Sona GHAZARYAN (Armenia) as a member;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to meet in Reykjavik on 21-22 September 2023;

- **Date and place of next meeting:** decided to hold its meeting as follows:
  - Friday 28 April 2023, 8 am (part-session).

Isild Heurtin, Greta Faggiani

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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 – References and transmissions to committees

### A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

- [Doc. 15690](#), Motion for a resolution, The question of the right to just and equal redress and the access to court and a fair trial for all victims of the German aggression during the Second World War: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to take into account in the motion for a resolution on “Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress”*
- [Doc. 15697](#), Motion for a resolution, Misuse of the anti-money laundering measures and countering the financing of terrorism regulations as a tool of transnational repression: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for consultation*
- [Doc. 15698](#), Motion for a resolution, The use of explosive weapons as a major driver of justified displacement: transmission to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*
- [Doc. 15699](#), Motion for a resolution, Urgent call on transferring Mikheil Saakashvili, the third President of Georgia for treatment abroad: reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on the “Honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia”*
- [Doc. 15701](#), Motion for a resolution, The foreseeable wealth gap in the automated future: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for consultation*
- [Doc. 15702](#), Motion for a recommendation, Socialising at schools, a means for students' well-being: transmission to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for consultation*
- [Doc. 15704](#), Motion for a resolution, Combating forced “harvesting” and “trafficking” in human organs: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*
- [Doc. 15705](#), Motion for a resolution, The Iranian regime’s murderous suppression, and the need to declare the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organisation: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “The situation in Iran”*
- [Doc. 15707](#), Motion for a resolution, Clean Air (indoor and outdoor) public health and greenhouse gases: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*
- [Doc. 15712](#), Motion for a resolution, Ensuring the right to fair trial in the context of State immunities: how to strike the right balance?: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”*

**Appendix 2 - Conference “Elections in times of crisis: challenges and opportunities” (Bern, 9-10 May 2023): list of members of the ad hoc committee to participate in the conference**

**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 Marietta KARAMANLI, France  
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

***Substitutes / suppléant.e.s***

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  
Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche  
Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚÂGÂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie  
Ms / Mme Arusyak JULHAKYAN, Armenia / Arménie  
Mr / M. Sergiy VLASENKO, Ukraine

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***Substitutes / suppléant.e.s***

Mr / M. Kęstutis MASIULIS, Lithuania / Lituanie  
Ms / Mme Isabel MEIRELLES, Portugal  
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

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***Substitutes / suppléant.e.s***

Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France  
Ms / Mme Oleksandra USTINOVA, 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. Michael Georg LINK, Germany / Allemagne

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

Mr / M. Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland / Pologne

**Appendix 3 - Türkiye: Presidential and parliamentary elections (14 May 2023): list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections**

**Chairperson / Président.e** : Mr / M. Frank SCHWABE (Germany / Allemagne, SOC)

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

Mr / M. Frank SCHWABE, Germany / Allemagne\*  
Ms / Mme Kate OSAMOR, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni  
Ms / Mme Margreet DE BOER, Netherlands / Pays-Bas  
Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse  
Mr / M. Andrea ORLANDO, Italy / Italie  
Mr / M. Paulo PISCO, Portugal  
Ms / Mme Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande  
Mr / M. Max LUCKS, Germany / Allemagne  
Ms / Mme Derya TÜRK-NACHBAUR, Germany / Allemagne  
Mr / M. Andrzej SZEJNA, Poland / Pologne  
Mr / M. André VALLINI, France  
Ms / Mme Heike ENGELHARDT, Germany / Allemagne

**Substitutes / suppléant.e.s**

Mr / M. Sabir HAJIYEV, Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan  
Mr / M. Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro / Monténégro

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

Ms / Mme Marie-Christine DALLOZ, France  
Ms / Mme Iva DIMIC Slovenia / Slovénie  
Mr / M. Kęstutis MASIULIS, Lithuania / Lituanie \*  
Ms / Mme Isabel MEIRELLES, Portugal  
Mr / M. Jacek PROTASIEWICZ, Poland / Pologne  
Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚĂGÂRLAȘ

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

Ms / Mme Mireille CLAPOT, France\*  
Ms / Mme Nicole DURANTON, France  
Ms / Mme Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie  
Mr / M. Rafael HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan  
Ms / Mme Gyde JENSEN, Germany / Allemagne  
Ms / Mme Denisa Elena NEAGU, Romania / Roumanie  
Mr / M. Dean PREMIK, Slovenia / Slovénie  
Ms / Mme Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA, Ukraine

**Substitutes / suppléant.e.s**

Mr / M. Georges-Louis BOUCHEZ, Belgium / Belgique  
Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France  
Ms / Mme Oleksandra USTINOVA, 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. Norbert KLEINWÄCHTER, Germany / Allemagne  
Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine  
Mr / M. Simone BILLI, Italy / Italie  
Lord Simon RUSSELL, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni\*  
Mr / M. Kamal JAFAROV, Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan  
Mr / M. Dmytro NATALUKHA, Ukraine

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

Mr / M. Andrej HUNKO, Germany / Allemagne  
Mr / M. George LOUCAIDES, Cyprus / Chypre \*

***Substitutes / suppléant.e.s***

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

**Co-rapporteurs AS/MON (ex officio)**

Mr / M. John HOWELL, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni\*  
Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche

\* members of the pre-election delegation / membres de la délégation préélectorale



## Appendix 4 – Mandate: General Rapporteur on Political Prisoners in Europe

### Terms of reference

**1. Term of office:** one year, renewable once

**2. Mandate**

The general rapporteur on Political Prisoners in Europe is mandated to intervene in matters relating to alleged cases of politically motivated arrests and criminal prosecutions in Europe and in other countries having an observer or cooperative status with the Council of Europe or the Parliamentary Assembly.

**3. Definition**

A “political prisoner” is a person who is deprived of his or her liberty in circumstances fulfilling one or more of the criteria reaffirmed in Assembly Resolution 1900 (2012), namely:

- a. if the detention has been imposed in violation of one of the fundamental guarantees set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols (ECHR), in particular freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression and information, freedom of assembly and association;
- b. if the detention has been imposed for purely political reasons without connection to any offence;
- c. if, for political motives, the length of the detention or its conditions are clearly out of proportion to the offence the person has been found guilty of or is suspected of;
- d. if, for political motives, he or she is detained in a discriminatory manner as compared to other persons; or,
- e. if the detention is the result of proceedings which were clearly unfair and this appears to be connected with political motives of the authorities.” (SG/Inf(2001)34, paragraph 10).

The finding by the European Court of Human Rights, in favour of a person deprived of his or her liberty, of a violation of Articles 5 in conjunction with Article 18 of the European Convention of Human Rights is a strong indication that such a person is a “political prisoner”.

**4. Responsibilities**

The role of the general rapporteur is to:

- follow activities and maintain working relations, when need arises, with different Council of Europe institutions and bodies which deal with issues relating to political prisoners, including the Committee of Ministers, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary General and the Conference of INGOs;
- follow activities and maintain, when appropriate, working relations with bodies and agencies of the United Nations (including its Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions), the European Union, with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in particular the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Special Representative on Political Prisoners, and with other international governmental and non-governmental organisations;
- represent the committee on behalf of the Assembly *vis-à-vis* any of the above mentioned bodies and groups, when relevant and appropriate;
- in appropriate cases, make statements and launch appeals on his/her own behalf or propose to do so to the Committee;
- in appropriate cases, engage in communication with alleged political prisoners or their families and their lawyers;
- follow up previous resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly on issues related to alleged cases of political prisoners.

The general rapporteur shall report periodically, at least annually, to the committee on information collected and any action taken.