

SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2024) CB 01
29 January 2024

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 January 2024

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 January 2024, with first Lord David Blencathra (United Kingdom, EC/DA), oldest member present, then Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 22 January 2024 at 18:00**, as regards:
 - ***Election of the Bureau of the Committee:***
 - elected, by acclamation, Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson,
 - elected, by acclamation, Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), 1st Vice-Chairperson,
 - elected, by acclamation, Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), 2nd Vice-Chairperson,
 - postponed the election of its 3rd Vice-Chairperson;
 - ***The theme of migration and asylum in the election campaign and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants*** (*rapporteur for opinion: Mr Tural Ganjaliyev, Azerbaijan, EC/DA*): due to the absence of the rapporteur for opinion, appointed Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA) to present the opinion in the plenary debate;
 - ***Recent developments in the Middle East: Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel and Israel's response*** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): considered and approved an addendum to the report, and took position on 28 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **on Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 8:30**, as regards:
 - ***Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine*** (*rapporteur: Mr Lulzim Basha, Albania, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Cedric Ryngaert, Professor of Public International Law at Utrecht University (Netherlands), and Mr Philip Zelikow, White Burkett Miller Professor of History, University of Virginia, former Advisor of the United States Department of State (2005-2007) (online);
 - ***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*** (*rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Glauk Konjufca, President of the Assembly of Kosovo*, followed by an exchange of views;
 - ***A democratic future for Belarus*** (*rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): considered and approved an addendum to the report, including the 7 amendments contained therein;
 - ***Ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the Helsinki Dialogue***: heard a statement by Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC), Chairperson of the ad hoc Sub-Committee, on the Helsinki Dialogue, which took place in Helsinki on 11 and 12 January 2024;
 - ***The role of sanctions as a protective measure for human rights and democracy*** (*rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;

* 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.

- **Institutional representation:** in the framework of the Assembly’s institutional representation, and taking into account Assembly Resolution 2394 (2021) “Gender representation in the Parliamentary Assembly”, appointed Mr Michael Georg Link (Germany, ALDE) member of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission (CDE), for submission to the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **Standing invitations:** decided, in accordance with Resolution 1376 (2004) and with the decision of the Bureau of the Assembly of 4 October 2004 approved the same day by the Assembly, and according to Article 48.7 of the Rules of Procedure, to invite the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend its meetings during the Assembly 2024 Ordinary Session;
- **Globalisation in times of crisis and war: The role of the OECD since the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): appointed Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, to present the report in the plenary debate;
- **on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 10:30**, as regards:
 - **Globalisation in times of crisis and war: The role of the OECD since the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): took position on 15 amendments to the draft resolution and decided to move one oral sub-amendment to the draft resolution;
 - **A democratic future for Belarus** (*rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): took position on 12 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Call for Famagusta’s return to its lawful inhabitants** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Athens on 29 November 2023 and agreed to the rapporteur’s request to carry out a further fact-finding visit to Cyprus (subject to the availability of funds);
 - **Institutional representation:** in the framework of the Assembly’s institutional representation, and taking into account Assembly Resolution 2394 (2021) “Gender representation in the Parliamentary Assembly”, appointed Mr Corneliu-Mugurel Cozmanciuc (Romania, EPP/CD) substitute member of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission (CDE), for submission to the Bureau of the Assembly;
 - **Constitution of Sub-Committees:** reconstituted the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, the Sub-Committee on External Relations, and constituted the Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans;
- **on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 11:30**, as regards:
 - **Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace:** held a joint hearing with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), with the participation of Ms Alena Makouskaya, member of the Council of Europe Contact Group on Co-operation with Representatives of Belarusian democratic forces and civil society, Co-ordinator of civic cultural campaign “Let us be Belarusians” (Budzma Belarusami); Ms Yuliia Fediv, Culture and Media Manager, member of the NGO “Coalition for Culture”, UNESCO and European Commission consultant on cultural policymaking reform in Ukraine; and Mr Robert Pickard, expert in cultural heritage law, United Kingdom (online);
- **on Thursday 25 January 2024 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - **Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Mr Lulzim Basha, Albania, EPP/CD*): considered a revised draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **Strengthening democracy through participatory and deliberative processes** (*rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): considered an outline report;
 - **Sub-Committees:** approved the composition of the sub-committees (see Appendix);

– **Work programme:**

- **Invitation to hold a meeting in Oslo on 30 and 31 May 2024:** took note of, and welcomed, the invitation letter of the Chairperson of the Norwegian delegation to the Assembly and decided to hold its meeting in Oslo on 30 and 31 May 2024 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);

- **Appointment of rapporteurs for reports:** appointed:

following a vote:

Ms Blerina Gjylameti (Albania, SOC), Rapporteur on “Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement”

by acclamation:

Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, EC/DA), Rapporteur on “Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy”

Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE), Rapporteur on “Elections in times of crisis”

and heard from them declarations of absence of conflict of interests;

- **References for consultation:** decided to advise the Bureau as follows:
 - the motion “A parliamentary sponsorship programme between the Parliamentary Assembly members and human rights defenders or the politically oppressed”: agreed with the proposal of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights that the general Rapporteurs on Political Prisoners (Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC) and Human Rights Defenders (Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD) would reflect on possible proposals for the future and present relevant proposals in their annual information notes,
 - the motion “Self-determination and territorial integrity in the 21st century” to be referred to the committee for information,
 - the motion “Responding to the violent attacks in the North of Kosovo*” to be referred to the committee for report;
- **Gender equality in the functioning of the Assembly:** took note of the Information memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination;

– **Meetings in 2024:** took note of the meetings in 2024 to be held as follows:

- 5 March 2024, Paris
- April part-session (15-19 April 2024), Strasbourg
- 30 and 31 May 2024, Oslo (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau)
- June part-session (24-28 June 2024), Strasbourg
- 9 September 2024, Paris
- October part-session (30 September - 4 October 2024), Strasbourg
- 11 December 2024, Paris

Sonia Sirtori, Ágnes Kertész, Pavel Chevtchenko, John Dorber

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

**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 / Président-e

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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/ Tchéquie	
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. Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios (EPP/CD)
11. Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EC/DA)	Hungary / Hongrie	
12. Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)
13. Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	
14. Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg	
15. Ms Maja VUKIĆEVIĆ (NR)	Montenegro / Monténégro	Mr Miloš KONATAR (SOC)
16. Mr Krzysztof TRUSKOLASKI (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
17. Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal	Mme MEIRELLES Isabel (EPP/CD)
18. Mr STROE Ionuț-Marian (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)
19. Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	
20. Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)
21. Ms ÅBERG Boriána (EPP/CD)	Sweden / Suède	
22. Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse	M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)
23. Mr TÜRKES Yıldırım Tuğrul (NR)	Türkiye	Mr TAN Namık (SOC)
24. Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)
25. Lord BLENCATHRA David (EC/DA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
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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

**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**

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1.	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
2.	Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
3.	Mr MOUTQUIN Simon (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique	Ms Van VAERENBERGH Kristien (NR)
4.	Mr LOUCAIDES (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	
5.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France	
6.	Mr LUCKS Max (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	
7.	Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (UEL)	Greece / Grèce	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)
8.	Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
9.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie	
10.	Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)	Italy / Italie	
11.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
12.	Mr WILDERS Geert (NR)	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	
13.	Mr Krzysztof TRUSKOLASKI (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
14.	Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal	
15.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)
16.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	
17.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne	
18.	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse	M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE)
19.	Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT (NR)	Türkiye	Mr KOÇAK Konur Alp (NR)
20.	Mr SHEPPARD Tommy (NR)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr MORRIS David (EC/DA)
21.	Mr SOBOLIEV Serhii (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)
22.	Ms VASYLENKO Lesia (ALDE)	Ukraine	
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30.	Ms Blerina GJYLAMETI (SOC)	Albania / Albanie	
31.	Mr BUCHMANN Christian (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
32.	Mr BOUCHEZ Georges-Louis (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	Mr MOUTQUIN Simon (SOC)
33.	Ms NOVAKOVIĆ BURSAC Snjezana (NR)	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine	
34.	Ms BALIĆ Marijana (EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie	
35.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France	M. CADEC Alain (EPP/CD)
36.	Mme TANGUY Liliana (ALDE)	France	
37.	Mr TSIPRAS Alexis (SOC)	Greece / Grèce	Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)
38.	Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EC/DA)	Hungary / Hongrie	Mr ARATÓ Gergely (SOC)
39.	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
40.	Mr DREOSTO Marco (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	
41.	Ms Elisabetta GARDINI (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	
42.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)
43.	Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)	Malta / Malte	
44.	Ms Maja VUKIĆEVIĆ (NR)	Montenegro / Monténégro	Mr Miloš KONATAR (SOC)
45.	Ms Agnieszka POMASKA (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
46.	Mr MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus (EC/DA)	Romania / Roumanie	Ms DMITREA Dumitrina (EC/DA)
47.	Ms SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie	Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)
48.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	
49.	Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (...)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)
50.	Mr TAN Namık (SOC)	Türkiye	Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT (NR)
51.	Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	
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