



SECRETARIAT

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31 January 2023

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 January 2023

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 January 2023, with first Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC), oldest member present, then Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, and then Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), 2nd Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **on Monday 23 January 2023 at 2.15 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**

re-elected, by acclamation:
 - Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson,
 - Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC), 1st Vice-Chairperson,
 - Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro (Spain, EPP/CD), 3rd Vice-Chairperson;and elected, by acclamation, Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), 2nd Vice-Chairperson;
 - **Sub-Committees:** reconstituted the Sub-Committee on External Relations, the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, and the Sub-Committee on Democracy;
 - **The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges** (*Rapporteur: Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE*): considered a revised addendum to the report and unanimously approved it, including the eight amendments contained therein;
 - **Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?** heard a statement by Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) and held an exchange of views;
- **on Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 8.30 a.m.**, as regards:
 - **The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges** (*Rapporteur: Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE*): took position on 35 amendments and one sub-amendment to the draft recommendation; and decided to submit one oral amendment;
 - **Assessing the functioning of the partnership for democracy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Safeguarding peace and stability in the East Mediterranean Sea** (*Rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur following her fact-finding visits to Ankara and Athens, considered an introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views;
 - **Sub-Committees:** approved the composition of the sub-committees (see Appendix);

- **on Wednesday 25 January 2023 at 2 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **Call for a national political reform process in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): welcomed the Belarussian members of the Contact Group on Belarus; held a hearing with the participation of Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Mr Pavel Sapelka, human rights defender, Viasna Human Rights Centre; taking into account paragraph 18.2. of Resolution 2433 (2022) “Consequences of the Russian Federation’s continued aggression against Ukraine: role and response of the Council of Europe”, agreed to invite, at every part-session, up to three representatives of Belarussian democratic political forces to its meetings, on a fair rotational basis to ensure engagement with a broad spectrum of political views; instructed the Rapporteur to identify the relevant political forces to which the invitation should be extended; decided to inform the Bureau, hoping that the same representatives would be able to attend meetings of other general committees taking place during the same part-session;
 - **The challenge of far-right ideology to democracy and human rights in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Samad Seyidov, Azerbaijan, EC/DA*): considered an outline report and held a hearing with the participation of Dr Cynthia Miller-Idriss, Founding Director, Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab, American University, Professor, School of Public Affairs and School of Education, Washington (USA) (online), and Mr Nicholas Potter, journalist and researcher of the far right, at the Amadeu Antonio Foundation, Berlin;
 - **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”, following a call for candidatures, appointed the following members and substitutes, for submission to the Bureau of the Assembly:
 - Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission (CDE): following a vote, elected:

Member: Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro (Spain, EPP/CD)
Substitute: Mr Michael Georg Link (Germany, ALDE);
- **on Thursday 25 January 2023 at 2 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **The situation in Iran**: held a hearing (open to public) with the participation of:
 - Mr Javaid Rehman, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (online)
 - Mr Erwin van Veen, Senior research fellow, head of the Middle East research programme, Clingendael Conflict Research Unit, Netherlands
 - Ms Mina Khani, Political Analyst and Freelance Writer, Berlin;
 - **Work programme**:
 - **Appointment of Rapporteurs for report**: appointed, by acclamation:

Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Rapporteur for “Interconnections between the Council of Europe and the European Political Community”

Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for “Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”

Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro (Spain, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for “Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe”

and heard from them a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;

- **Consultation of the Committee on the follow-up to be given to the motion for a resolution “Preventing abuse of the right to veto in the Security Council: a perspective by the member States of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe”:** further to the consultation of the Sub-Committee on External Relations, decided to ask the Bureau that this motion be referred to it to be taken into account in the preparation of the report “The need for renewed, effective and inclusive Multilateralism” (Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD), and asked the Chairperson to inform the Bureau accordingly;
- **Replies by the Committee of Ministers:** considered the reply of the Committee of Ministers to [Recommendation 2226 \(2022\)](#) “Beyond the Lisbon Treaty: strengthening the strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union”;
- **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”, following a call for candidatures, appointed, by acclamation, Mr Ahmet Yıldız (Türkiye, NR) as member in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), 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 2023 Ordinary Session;
- **Other business:**
 - took note of the procedure and the deadline of 30 April 2023 for the submission of nominations as well as the relevant information available on the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website;
 - authorised Ms Fiona O’Loughin (Ireland, ALDE), former rapporteur for the report “The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges” to address in the 44th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, to be held on 21-23 March 2023 in Strasbourg;
 - authorised Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, to represent the Assembly at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (Türkiye), to be held on 11-13 March 2023;
- **Meetings in 2023:** took note of the meetings in 2023 to be held as follows:
 - 20 March 2023, Paris
 - April part-session (24-28 April 2023), Strasbourg
 - 11-12 May 2023, Seville (Spain)
 - June part-session (19-23 June 2023), Strasbourg
 - 12-13 September 2023, Paris
 - October part-session (9-13 October 2023), Strasbourg
 - 12 December 2023, Paris

The **Sub-Committee on External Relations**, meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday 26 January 2023 with first Lord Blencathra (United Kingdom, EC/DA), oldest member present, and then Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:** re-elected, by acclamation, Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), Chairperson, and Mr Ahmet Yıldız (Türkiye, NR), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters, New York (28-30 November 2022):** held an exchange of views with the participation of Ambassador Manuel Montobbio, Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT), and Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Assembly; took note that the Bureau seized the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy with consultation on the follow-up to be given to the motion for a resolution "Preventing abuse of the right to veto in the Security Council: a perspective by the member States of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe" and, taking into account the discussions held at the United Nations, agreed that this motion should be dealt with in the framework of the report "The need for renewed, effective and inclusive Multilateralism" (Rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD);
- **Future work:** held an exchange of views on possibilities to establish and/or extend co-operation with non-member States and international organisations;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Ágnes Kertész, Pavel Chevtschenko, Ayşegül Elveriş, Elia Boggia

cc. 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

**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·

Mr Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES (Spain, SOC)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président·

Mr Ahmet YILDIZ (Türkiye, NR)

Full Members / Membres titulaires

Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s

1.	Ms BONELL Mònica (ALDE)	Andorra / Andorre	
2.	Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)
3.	Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
4.	Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC/DA)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)
5.	Mr BOUCHEZ Georges-Louis (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	Ms Van VAERENBERGH Kristien (NR)
6.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	
7.	Mr BENEŠÍK Ondřej (EPP/CD)	Czech Republic / République tchèque	
8.	Mr JENSEN Mogen (SOC)	Denmark / Danemark	
9.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France	M. MARIE Didier (SOC)
10.	Mr MIKANADZE Givi (SOC)	Georgia / Géorgie	
11.	Ms FUNKE Fabian (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr DAĞDELEN Sevim (UEL)
12.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios (EPP/CD)
13.	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)]
14.	Ms KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA Zanda (EPP/CD)	Latvia / Lettonie	
15.	Mr LYDEKĀ Arminas (ALDE)	Lithuania / Lituanie	Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)
16.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
17.	Ms VUKIĆEVIĆ Maja (NR)	Montenegro / Monténégro	
18.	Ms OOMEN-RUIJTEN (EPP/CD)	Netherlands / Pays Bas	
19.	Mr BERNACKI Włodzimierz (EC/DA)	Poland / Pologne	Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)
20.	Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal	Mme MEIRELLES Isabel (EPP/CD)
21.	Mr STROE Ionuț-Marian (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)
22.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	Ms SIMONVIĆ BRATIĆ Dunja (SOC)
23.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)
24.	Ms ÅBERG Borianna (EPP/CD)	Sweden / Suède	
25.	Ms MARET Marianne (EPP/CD)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms CAROBIO GUSCETTI Marina (SOC)
26.	Mr YILDIZ Ahmet (NR)	Türkiye	Mr ÇEVİKÖZ Ahmet Ünal (SOC)
27.	Ms VASYLENKO Lesia (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)
28.	Lord BLENCATHRA David (EC/DA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Sir LLOYD Tony (SOC)
29.	Mr DAEMS Rik (ALDE)	Immediate past President of the Assembly / Président de l'Assemblée sortant	

Ex officio: Mr Zsolt Németh

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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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président·e

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Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s

1.	Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
2.	Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
3.	Mr MOLLAZADA Asim (EC/DA)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	
4.	Mr MOUTQUIN Simon (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique	Ms Van VAERENBERGH Kristien (NR)
5.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	
6.	Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)	Denmark/Danemark	
7.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)
8.	Mr LUCKS Max (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr ULLRICH Volker (EPP/CD)
9.	Mr KATROUGALOS George (UEL)	Greece / Grèce	Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)
10.	Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
11.	Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
12.	Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)	Malta / Malte	
13.	Mr MULARCZYK Arkadiusz (EC/DA)	Poland / Pologne	Mr SZEJNA Andrzej (SOC)
14.	Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal	
15.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr MANG Ioan (SOC)
16.	Mr NICOLINI Marco (UEL)	San Marino / Saint-Marin	
17.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)
18.	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)
19.	Mr EKER Mehmet Mehdi (NR)	Türkiye	Mr YILDIZ Ahmet (NR)
20.	Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Mr SOBOLIEV Serhii (EPP/CD)
21.	Mr SHEPPARD Tommy (NR)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr HOWELL John (EC/DA)
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Sub-Committee on Democracy
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de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

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4.	Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)	Denmark / Danemark	
5.	ZZ...	France	M. Alain MILON (EPP/CD)
6.	Mr ULLRICH Volker (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr LINK Michael Georg (ALDE)
7.	Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)	Greece / Grèce	Mr CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios (EPP/CD)
8.	Mr ARATÓ Gergely (SOC)	Hungary / Hongrie	
9.	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
10.	Mr DZINTARS Normunds (NR)	Latvia / Lettonie	
11.	Mr LYDEKA Arminas (ALDE)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
12.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
13.	Mr MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus (EC/DA)	Romania / Roumanie	Ms DMITREA Dumitrina (EC/DA)
14.	Ms SUMELZO Susana (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	
15.	Ms CAROBIO GUSCETTI Marina (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)
16.	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms MARET Marianne (EPP/CD)
17.	Mr BÜYÜKGÜMÜŞ Ahmet (NR)	Türkiye	Mr Ahmet Ünal ÇEVİKÖZ (SOC)
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