



SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2023) CB 03
28 April 2023

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 24 to 27 April 2023

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 24 to 27 April 2023, with Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, in the Chair,

- **on 24 April 2023 at 13:00**, as regards:
 - **Assessing the functioning of the partnership for democracy** (*rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges** (*rapporteur for follow-up: Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE*): heard a statement by the rapporteur for follow-up and held an exchange of views;
 - **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** (*rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): heard a statement the rapporteur, considered an outline report, and agreed with the rapporteur's proposal to change the title of the report to "Globalisation in times of crises and war: The role of the OECD since the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine";
- **on Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 08:30**, as regards:
 - **Ensuring accountability for the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine: the role of the Council of Europe**: held a joint hearing with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights with the participation of Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), Council of Europe, and Mr Jörg Polakiewicz, Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law, Council of Europe;
- **on Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 11:30**, as regards:
 - **Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Evgenia Kara-Murza, wife of Mr Vladimir Kara-Murza, laureate of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, and Mr Vadim Prokhorov, Mr Kara-Murza's lawyer;
 - **Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans** (*former rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): took note of the preliminary draft programme and approved the composition of the ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the conference on the Western Balkans in Skopje on 20 October 2023;
- **on Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 10:30**, as regards:
 - **Call for a national political reform process in Belarus** (*rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): held a hearing on "Recent political developments in Belarus" with the participation of Mr Yury Hubarevich, Chairperson, Movement "For Freedom", Mr Yauheni Vilski, first Deputy Chairman, Belarusian Social Democratic Party "Narodnaya Hramada", and Ms Natallia Pinchuk, wife of Mr Ales Bialiatski, laureate of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize and the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize;

– **Work programme:**

- **Appointment of rapporteurs for report:** appointed, by acclamation:

Mr Max Lucks (Germany, SOC), rapporteur on “The situation in Iran”

Ms Isabel Meirelles (Portugal, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Promoting the revised Code of Good Practice on Referendums”

Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Relationship between the parliamentary majority and the opposition in a democracy”

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

- **Request for the extension of a reference:**

“Establishment of a “youth partner” status with the Parliamentary Assembly” (*rapporteur: Mr Anastasios Chatzivasileiou, Greece, EPP/CD*): decided to request an extension of the validity of the reference for a period of 6 months, until 28 November 2023;

- **on Thursday 27 April 2023 at 10:30**, as regards:

– **Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe** (*rapporteur: Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro, Spain, EPP/CD*): considered an outline report;

– **The role of the Council of Europe in preventing human suffering resulting from international armed conflicts: different stages of conflict prevention and best practices to be employed** (*rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered a revised preliminary draft report and agreed with the rapporteur’s proposal to change the title of the report to “The role of the Council of Europe in preventing conflicts, restoring credibility of international institutions and promoting global peace”;

– **The challenge of far-right ideology to democracy and human rights in Europe** (*rapporteur: Mr Samad Seyidov, Azerbaijan, EC/DA*): considered a preliminary draft report;

– **The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms** (*rapporteur: Mr Aleksander Pociąg, Poland, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan during the course of 2023 (subject to the availability of funds and the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly);

– **Changes to membership in Sub-Committees:** approved changes to membership in the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, in the Sub-Committee on Democracy, and in the ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the conference on the Western Balkans (see Appendix);

– **Next meetings:** took note of the meetings in 2023 to be held as follows:

- 11-12 May 2023, Seville (Spain)
- June part-session (19-23 June 2023), Strasbourg
- 11-12 September 2023, Paris
- October part-session (9-13 October 2023), Strasbourg
- 12 December 2023, Paris.

Sonia Sirtori, Ágnes Kertész, Pavel Chevtchenko, John Dorber

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**Ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the conference on the Western Balkans
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy****Sous-commission ad hoc pour participer à la conférence sur les Balkans occidentaux
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 LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
2.	Ms BALIĆ (Marijana EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie	
3.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France	
4.	M. MARIE Didier (SOC)	France	
5.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	
6.	Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)	Greece / Grèce	
7.	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
8.	Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	
9.	Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)	Malta / Malte	
10.	Mr KAEVSKI Darko (SOC)	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord	
11.	Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	
12.	Ms SIMONVIĆ BRATIĆ Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie	Ms Elvira KOVÁCS (EPP/CD)
13.	Ms VONTA Tamara (ALDE)	Slovenia / Slovénie	Mr LOGAR Anže (EPP/CD)
14.	Mr DIBRIANI Adnan (SOC)	Sweden / Suède	
15.	Mr YILDIZ Ehmet (NR)	Türkiye	
16.	Lord FOULKES George (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
17.	Sir LLOYD Tony (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
18.	Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	
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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**Other participants**

Mr GASHI Arben

Assembly of Kosovo*

* 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 // Toute référence au Kosovo, que ce soit le territoire, les institutions ou la population, doit se comprendre en pleine conformité avec la Résolution 1244 du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations-Unies et sans préjuger du statut du Kosovo.

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

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

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président

Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-présidente

Ms Ingjerd Schou (Norway, EPP/CD)

Full Members / Membres titulaires

Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s

1.	Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
2.	Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC/DA)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	
3.	Mr BOUCHEZ Georges-Louis (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	Mr MOUTQUIN Simon (SOC)
4.	Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)	Denmark / Danemark	
5.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France	M. Alain MILON (EPP/CD)
6.	Mr ULLRICH Volker (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr LINK Michael Georg (ALDE)
7.	Mr PAPANDEOU 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 DREOSTO Marco (EC/DA)	Italy / Italie	Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (EC/DA)
11.	Mr LYDEKA Arminas (ALDE)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
12.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
13.	Mme FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice (ALDE)	Monaco	
14.	Mr MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus (EC/DA)	Romania / Roumanie	Ms DMITREA Dumitrina (EC/DA)
15.	Ms SUMELZO Susana (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	
16.	Ms CAROBIO GUSCETTI Marina (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)
17.	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms MARET Marianne (EPP/CD)
18.	Mr BÜYÜKGÜMÜŞ Ahmet (NR)	Türkiye	Mr Ahmet Ünal ÇEVİKÖZ (SOC)
19.	Sir LLOYD Tony (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
20.	Mr DAEMS Rik (ALDE)	Immediate past President of the Assembly / Président de l'Assemblée sortant	
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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**

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président

Mr Reinhold Lopatka (Austria, EPP/CD)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président

Mr Mehmet Mehdi Eker (Türkiye, NR)

Full Members / Titulaires

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	
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.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie	
12.	Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)	Italy / Italie	
13.	Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
14.	Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)	Malta / Malte	
15.	Mr MULARCZYK Arkadiusz (EC/DA)	Poland / Pologne	Mr SZEJNA Andrzej (SOC)
16.	Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)	Portugal	
17.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr MANG Ioan (SOC)
18.	Mr NICOLINI Marco (UEL)	San Marino / Saint-Marin	
19.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)
20.	Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)
21.	Mr EKER Mehmet Mehdi (NR)	Türkiye	Mr YILDIZ Ahmet (NR)
22.	Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Mr SOBOLIEV Serhii (EPP/CD)
23.	Mr SHEPPARD Tommy (NR)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr HOWELL John (EC/DA)
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