

AS/Soc (2024) CB03
19 April 2024

To the members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 17-18 April 2024

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Strasbourg on

- **Wednesday, 17 April 2024, at 11:30 am**, with Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC), Chairperson, and Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, EC/DA), Vice-Chairperson in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavik process** (*Rapporteur: Mr Simon Moutquin, Belgium, SOC*): took position on 9 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft recommendation;
 - **Towards Council of Europe strategies for healthy seas and oceans to counter the climate crisis** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Ukraine, ALDE*): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation;
 - **Europe Prize**: considered the applications of the three cities pre-selected by the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, decided to award the Europe Prize 2024 to the city of Terrassa in Spain and approved the proposals submitted by the Sub-Committee for the different distinctions (see the Appendix);
 - **Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour** (*Rapporteur: Ms Eka Sepashvili, Georgia, EC/DA*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Thursday, 18 April 2024, at 8:30 am**, with Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **The protection of children against online violence** (*Rapporteur: Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): took position on 6 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft recommendation;
 - **Detention of the “socially maladjusted”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC*): changed the title of the report to “Ending the detention of “socially maladjusted” persons”, considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft recommendation;
 - **The European Social Charter: outlook for social rights after the Reykjavik Summit**: heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter on preparations for the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter which will take place on 3-4 July 2024 in Vilnius (Lithuania) and instructed the Chairperson to send a letter to the PACE Bureau requesting the authorisation for the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter to hold its meeting in Vilnius in the framework of this conference;
 - **Possible creation of a network on the situation of the children of Ukraine**: took note of the presentation of Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, EC/DA) and agreed to return to the consideration of this issue at the next meeting;

- **Changes in sub-committees:** approved the following changes:
 - **Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter:** Ms Denisa Sacheva (Bulgaria, EPP/CD), Ms Rasa Budbergytė (Lithuania, SOC) and Mr Rostyslav Tistyk (Ukraine, EC/DA) became full members;
 - **Sub-Committee on Children:** Ms Denisa Sacheva (Bulgaria, EPP/CD), Mr Kęstutis Masiulis (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Ms Larysa Bilozir (Ukraine, ALDE) and Mr Rostyslav Tistyk (Ukraine, EC/DA) became full members;
 - **Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development:** Ms Larysa Bilozir (Ukraine, ALDE), Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE) and Mr Rostyslav Tistyk (Ukraine, EC/DA) became full members;
 - **Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize:** Ms Ruth Jones (United Kingdom, SOC) and Mr Berdan Öztürk (Türkiye, GUE) became full members.
- **Committee's work programme and priorities:**
 - appointed rapporteurs as follows:
 - ✓ Ms Valérie Piller Carrard (Switzerland, SOC), for the report on “Sustainable European guidelines to counter social dumping and strengthen collective bargaining mechanisms” and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - ✓ heard the declaration of absence of conflict of interest of Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD) appointed as rapporteur on ““Long Covid” and access to the right to health”;
 - appointed Committee representatives to external events as follows (*subject to the availability of funds*):
 - ✓ Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to visit the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other Geneva-based international organisations in the framework of the follow-up to Resolution 2529 (2024) on “The situation of the children of Ukraine” (*date to be decided*) – Ms Larysa Bilozir (Ukraine, ALDE) et Ms Lesia Zaburanna (Ukraine, ALDE) as alternate members;
 - ✓ 9th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Rights for the Child (CDENF), 28-30 May 2024, Strasbourg – Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC);
 - ✓ 32nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre, 21 May 2024, Lisbon -
 - ✓ 42th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee), 11-13 June 2024, Strasbourg – Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD);
 - heard reports from Committee representatives to external events:
 - ✓ 3rd meeting of the Drafting Group on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (PC-ENV), 27-29 February 2024, Strasbourg - Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine, ALDE)
 - ✓ 46th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, 26-28 March 2024, Strasbourg - Mr Armen Gevorgyan (Armenia, EC/DA)
 - ✓ Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, 3-4 April 2024, Paris - Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC)
- **Other business:** took note of:
 - the invitation of Portuguese Parliament to hold the Committee's meeting in Lisbon in September 2024;
 - the invitation to take part in the High-Level Conference “Today, tomorrow, together for public health” organised by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM) of the Council of Europe to celebrate its 60 years of existence on 11 and 12 June 2024 in Strasbourg and proposed that the Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development would hold its meeting on this occasion;
- **Date and place of next meetings:**
 - Monday, 3 June 2024, Paris (Council of Europe Office)
 - Third part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 24-28 June 2024, Strasbourg
 - Friday, 13 September 2024, Lisbon (Portugal)
 - Fourth part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 30 September - 4 October 2024, Strasbourg
 - Friday, 6 December 2024, Paris (Council of Europe Office)

- **Thursday, 18 April 2024, at 2 pm, as regards:**
- **Joint meeting with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:** held an exchange of views on the North-South Centre with Ambassador Francesca Camilleri Vettiger, Permanent Representative of Malta, Chair of the Executive Committee of the North South Centre of the Council of Europe.

The Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, meeting *in camera* in Strasbourg on Wednesday 17 April 2024, with Mr Christian Petry (Germany, SOC), Sub-Committee Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Europe Prize 2024:** voted for three nominees from a list of four candidate municipalities and forwarded the list to the plenary committee to designate the prize-winning municipality;
- **Plaques of Honour, Flags of Honour and European Diplomas for 2024:** proposed to award these distinctions to 12 towns as shown in the Appendix;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:**
 - Ceremony for the presentation of the 2024 European Diplomas: third part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 24-28 June 2024, Strasbourg (*date to be confirmed*);
 - 2024 Europe Prize official presentation ceremony (*date and place to be confirmed*).

The Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment, meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday, 17 April 2024, with Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC), Chairperson of the Network in the Chair, as regards:

- **The case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in environmental matters and the focus on the outcome of climate cases:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Natalia Kobylarz, Senior Legal Advisor at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:**
 - Tuesday, 4 June 2024, Paris (Council of Europe Office)
 - Third part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 24-28 June 2024, Strasbourg
 - Thursday, 12 September 2024, Lisbon
 - Fourth part of the 2024 session of the Assembly, 30 September - 4 October 2024, Strasbourg

The Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development postponed its meeting to a future date.

- **Date and place of the next meeting:**
 - Monday, 3 June 2024, Paris (Council of Europe Office).
 - 11-12 June 2024, Strasbourg (on the occasion of the High-Level Conference “Today, tomorrow, together for public health” organised by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM)

Catherine Du Bernard, Aiste Ramanauskaite, Jannick Devaux, Claire Dubois-Hamdi, Prisca Barthel

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

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize

WINNERS OF THE EUROPE PRIZE, THE PLAQUE OF HONOUR, THE FLAG OF HONOUR AND THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR 2024

1. EUROPE PRIZE

The **Europe Prize**, which is the highest distinction, is awarded to:

Spain **Terrassa** (Catalonia)

2. PLAQUES OF HONOUR

The **Plaque of Honour**, which is the second highest distinction after the Europe Prize, is awarded to three municipalities:

Belgium **Woluwe-Saint-Lambert** (Region of Brussels-Capital)

France **Bayeux** (Normandy)

Portugal **Cascais** (Region of Lisbon)

3. FLAGS OF HONOUR

The **Flag of Honour** is awarded to four municipalities:

Bosnia and Herzegovina **Sarajevo** (Sarajevo Canton)

France **Longwy** (Grand Est)

Germany **Krefeld** (North Rhine-Westphalia)

Poland **Gołuchów** (Voivodeship of Greater Poland)

4. EUROPEAN DIPLOMAS

The **European Diploma** is awarded to five municipalities:

Germany **Oberstenfeld** (Baden-Württemberg)

Germany **Potsdam** (Brandenburg Land)

Germany **Versmold** (North Rhine-Westphalia)

North Macedonia **Skopje** (Region of Skopje)

Romania **Alba Iulia** (Transylvania)