



SECRETARIAT

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24 April 2026

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 20 to 23 April 2026

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 20 to 23 April 2026, with Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA), Chairperson, and Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD), second Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 20 April 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - ***Baltic Sea security challenges*** (*rapporteur: Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Finland, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr David O'Sullivan, EU Sanctions Envoy, followed by an exchange of views;
- **on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 8:30**, as regards:
 - ***Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy*** (*rapporteur: Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, ECPA*): took position on 16 amendments to the draft resolution, and decided to support 1 oral sub-amendment;
 - ***Work programme***:
 - ***Appointment of rapporteurs for report***: appointed, by acclamation, subject to the completion of the obligation to update their declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline:
 - Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) as rapporteur on "Political consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine";
 - Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC) as rapporteur on "The role of the Council of Europe in the transition to democracy in Venezuela and other Latin American countries";
 - ***Appointment of Committee representatives***: appointed:
 - Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD) to participate in the Network of Parliamentarians to Promote the Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD), Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA) and Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD) to sit in the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Black Sea Security Forum (Odessa, Ukraine, 29-31 May 2026), subject to security conditions;
 - ***Reply by the Committee of Ministers***: took note of the reply by the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2281 (2024) "The need for a renewed rules-based international order";

- on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 14:00, as regards:
 - **Situation in the Middle East** (*rapporteur*: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD): considered an outline report, and held an exchange of views;
 - **Work programme**:
 - **Appointment of a rapporteur for opinion**: appointed, by acclamation, Ms Lise Selnes (Norway, SOC) as rapporteur on “Journalism in the context of the Israel-Gaza conflict”, subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - **General Rapporteur on Latin America**: approved the terms of reference and decided to transmit them to the Bureau of the Assembly, in line with rule 50.7 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure;
- on Thursday 23 April 2026 at 8:30, as regards:
 - **Follow-up to Resolution 2637 (2026) Supporting the commitment to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine and the security of the European continent** (*rapporteur for follow-up*: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur for follow-up, and held an exchange of views;
 - **Reporting back**: heard a statement from Ms Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR) about her participation in the meeting of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Strasbourg, 17-19 March 2026;
 - **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans**: took note of, and welcomed the invitation of the Chairperson of the Croatian delegation to the Assembly, and agreed to hold a meeting in Zagreb, in Autumn 2026 (date to be confirmed and subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - **Authorisation by the Committee**: authorised Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) in his capacity as General Rapporteur on Democracy, to participate in the 17th edition of the EuroPCom – European Public Communication Conference, in Brussels, on 9-10 June 2026 (at no cost to the Assembly);
 - **Meetings in 2026**: took note of the meetings to be held as follows:
 - Wednesday 20 May 2026, Paris
 - Third part-session 2026 (22-26 June), Strasbourg
 - Tuesday 8 September 2026, Paris
 - Fourth part-session 2026 (28 September-2 October), Strasbourg
 - Friday 11 December 2026, Paris.

Catherine Hugel, Cesare Colombo, John Dorber, Eugen Schoenfeld

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
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe