

SECRETARIAT

AS/Bur (2024) CB 03
11 March 2024

To the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Paris on 7 March 2024

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 7 March 2024 in Paris, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Standing Committee in Paris (7 March 2024):**
 - took note of the requests tabled by the five political groups of the Parliamentary Assembly and decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold current affairs debates on:
 - “Two years of war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine”, and appointed Mr Iulian Bulai (Romania, ALDE) as the first speaker;
 - “The death of Alexei Navalny”, and appointed Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) as the first speaker;
 - updated the draft agenda;
- **Second part-session of 2024 (Strasbourg, 15-19 April):**
 - took note of the requests tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to hold debates under urgent procedures on “Alexei Navalny’s death and the need to counter Vladimir Putin’s totalitarian regime and its war on democracy”, “The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation and Belarus” (on the basis of a report with the same title currently being prepared by the committee), and “Opinion on the Draft Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law” (subject to its finalisation);
 - drew-up the draft agenda;
- **Organisation of the Parliamentary Assembly’s part-sessions as from June 2024:** took note of the information provided by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
- **Elections observation:**
 - North Macedonia – Presidential and parliamentary elections (24 April and 8 May 2024): approved the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 2);

- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:
 - took note of the letter by the committee and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to visit the ICRC headquarters in Geneva as well as other Geneva based international organisations/agencies, on a date to be decided, in the framework of the follow-up to Resolution 2529 (2024) on “The situation of the children of Ukraine”;
 - decided that this ad hoc committee will be composed of 10 members as follows: 4 members from the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (+ 2 alternates); 2 members from the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (+ 1 alternate); 2 members from the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (+ 1 alternate); 2 members from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (+ 1 alternate), and will be led by the President of the Assembly;
 - in the framework of the follow-up and implementation of paragraph 26 of Resolution 2529 (2024), invited the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to consider setting up a Network on the Situation of the Children of Ukraine, open to all members of the Assembly;
 - Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons: took note of the letter by the committee and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the event organised on 6 and 7 June 2024, in Luxembourg, on “The role of national parliaments in supporting the Belarusians in exile” and to invite the committees concerned to appoint members;
 - Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:
 - authorised Mr Lulzim BASHA (Albania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on “Support for the Reconstruction of Ukraine” to participate in the event on “Achievements in pursuing accountability since two years of a full-scale invasion of Ukraine” on 8 March, in New-York (at no cost for the Assembly);
 - considered and approved the terms of reference of a “General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus” (Appendix 3), subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network (Paris, 3-4 April 2024):** decided to set up this ad hoc committee and that it would be composed of 5 members from the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and from the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit 2024 “Democracy for the 21st Century” (Athens, 19- 21 March 2024):** approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to participate in the Summit and left it to the members of the ad hoc committee to appoint its chairperson (Appendix 4);
- **Honorary President:** decided to grant the title of Honorary President to Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly from 2022 to 2024;
- **Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2024:** approved the updated proposals (Appendix 5);
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment 2024:** took note of the deadline for submission of nominations to 15 March 2024;

– **Dates and places of next meetings**

Monday 15 April 2024, 8 am, Strasbourg (part-session)
Friday 19 April 2024, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)
Thursday 23 May 2024, 2.30 pm, Vilnius

Isild Heurtin

Copy to:

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 1 – References and transmissions to committees

A. References to committees

- Putting an end to collective expulsions of aliens, [Doc. 15903](#): reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*
- Enhancing cooperation between parliaments and equality bodies, [Doc. 15905](#): reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*
- Strengthening mechanisms for early warning and action in conflict prevention, [Doc. 15906](#): reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for opinion*
- Media pluralism under threat in Poland, [Doc. 15907](#): reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland”*
- Breaches of the rule of law in Poland as regards the prosecution service, [Doc. 15908](#): reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland”*
- The illegal detention of parliamentarians in Poland, [Doc. 15911](#): reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland”*
- Externalising asylum increases the risk of undermining the system of international protection, [Doc. 15912](#): reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures”*
- Alexei Navalny’s death and the need to counter Vladimir Putin’s totalitarian regime and its war on democracy, [Doc. 15936](#): reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

B. Reply after consultation

- A parliamentary sponsorship programme between the Parliamentary Assembly members and human rights defenders or the politically oppressed, [Doc. 15752](#): *no further action*

C. Request for an extension of reference

- The role of sites of remembrance: places of commemoration and education for democratic citizenship, [Doc. 15471](#): extension until 31 December 2024.

Appendix 2 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the Presidential and parliamentary elections in North Macedonia (24 April and 8 May 2024)

Chairperson / Président : Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse

Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)

Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Norway / Norvège
Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche*
Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye
Mr / M. Antonio GUTIERREZ-LIMONES, Spain / Espagne
Ms / Mme Klotilda BUSHKA, Albania / Albanie

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Givi MIKANADZE, Georgia / Géorgie
Ms / Mme Aurora FLORIDA, Italy / Italie

Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)

Mr / M. Branislav BORENOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie et Herzégovine
Mr / M. Christian BUCHMANN, Austria / Autriche
Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania / Roumanie
Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚĂGĂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie
Mr / M. Chris SAID, Malta / Malte*
Ms / Mme Jorida TABAKU, Albania / Albanie

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Jan Filip LIBICKI, Poland / Pologne
Mr / M. Ioannis OIKONOMOU, Greece / Grèce
Ms / Mme Catia POLIDORI, Italy / Italie
Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce

European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance (EC-DA) / Groupe des Conservateurs européens et Alliance démocratique (CE-AD)

Mr / M. Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne
Mr / M. Armen GEVORGYAN, Armenia / Arménie
Mr / M. Simone BILLI, Italy / Italie*
Mr / M. Jose Maria SANCHEZ GARCIA, Spain / Espagne

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) / Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe (ADLE)

Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse*
Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France
Ms / Mme Yevheniia KRAVCHUK, Ukraine

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. Dean PREMİK, Slovenia / Slovénie
Ms / Mme Rian VOGELS, The Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Mr / M. Christoph HOFFMANN, Germany / Allemagne
Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye
Ms / Mme Denisa NEAGU, Romania / Roumanie
Ms / Mme Yuliia OVCHYNNIKOVA, Ukraine
Ms / Mme Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie
Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie

* members of the pre-election delegation.

Mr / M. Georges-Louis BOUCHEZ, Belgium / Belgique

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)

Ms / Mme Selivay ÇELENK ÖZEN, Türkiye*

Substitutes / suppléant.e.s

Mr / M. George LOUCAIDES, Cyprus / Chypre

Co-rapporteur.e.s AS/MON (ex officio)

Ms / Mme Sibel ARSLAN, Switzerland / Suisse (SOC)

Mr / M. Joseph O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande (EPP/CD- PPE/DC)

Venice Commission / Commission de Venise

Ms / Mme Florence GANOUX, Expert / Experte

Mr / M. Michael JANSSEN, Administrator, Venice Commission / Administrateur, Commission de Venise

Secretariat / Secrétariat

Mr / M. Bogdan TORCĂTORIU, Senior Elections Officer, Secretary of the ad hoc committee, Election Observation and Support Division

Ms / Mme Carine ROLLER-KAUFMAN, Assistant, Election Observation and Support Division

Appendix 3 – General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus: Terms of reference

Denomination: General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus

Term of office: One year, renewable once

Mandate: The General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus ensures the visibility and coherence of the Assembly's action to support a democratic future for Belarus.

Responsibilities: The role of the general rapporteur is to:

- *enhance the capacity of the Assembly to identify, address and react to developments in relation to Belarus, and for advancing a democratic future for Belarus;*
- *promote the establishment of a structured dialogue between the Assembly and the Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the United Transitional Cabinet, the Coordination Council and their respective structures;*
- *maintain relations with the Council of Europe organs, bodies and structures conducting work related to Belarus and follow their relevant activities, representing the Assembly as appropriate;*
- *work and co-ordinate relevant actions with the Assembly's General Rapporteur for political prisoners, the General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and the General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty;*
- *contribute to enhancing the role of the Assembly as a platform to promote a democratic future for Belarus, establishing dialogue with member State Special Representatives to Belarusian democratic forces, civil society and non-governmental organisations with special expertise in this field, in Europe and beyond;*
- *follow activities and maintain, when appropriate, relations with bodies and agencies of the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and with other international governmental and inter-parliamentary organisations;*
- *enhance the external visibility and outreach of the work and role of the Assembly on Belarus, including the follow-up and promotion of adopted resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly and, in appropriate cases, make public statements, launch appeals, or propose to do so to the committee.*

**Appendix 4 – List of members of the ad hoc committee to participate in the WPL Summit 2024
'Democracy for the 21st Century' (Athens, 19-21 March 2024)**

Ms / <i>Mme</i> Laura Castel	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	UEL / <i>GUE</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Elisabetta Gardini	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	EC/DA / <i>CE/AD</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Marietta Karamanli	France	SOC
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Nina Kasimati	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	UEL / <i>GUE</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Pauline Latham	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	EC/DA / <i>CE/AD</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Carla Moonen	Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>	ALDE / <i>ADLE</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Biljana Pantić Pilja	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>	EPP/CD / <i>PPE/DC</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Dunja Simonović Bratić	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>	SOC
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Domenica Spinelli	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	EC/DA / <i>CE/AD</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Maria Syrengela	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	EPP/CD / <i>PPE/DC</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Jorida Tabaku	Albania / <i>Albanie</i>	EPP/CD / <i>PPE/DC</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Liliana Tanguy	France	ALDE / <i>ADLE</i>
Ms / <i>Mme</i> Oleksandra Ustinova	Ukraine	ALDE / <i>ADLE</i>

Appendix 5 – Institutional representation of the Assembly in 2024

Body / Organe	who represents the Assembly / qui représente l'Assemblée	reference	2024
I. Council of Europe bodies / Organes du Conseil de l'Europe			
European Commission for Democracy through Law Venice Commission <i>Commission européenne pour la démocratie par le droit - Commission de Venise</i>	Representatives of the Assembly appointed by the Bureau to attend the sessions of the Commission <i>Représentants de l'Assemblée désignés par le Bureau pour assister aux sessions de la Commission</i>	Article 2.4 of the Venice Commission Statute (Res CM (2002) 3) <i>Article 2.4 du statut de la Commission de Venise (Rés CM (2002) 3)</i>	Members: Mr Tiny KOX (Netherlands, UEL) Appointment by the President Mr Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES (Spain, SOC) (AS/Jur) Substitute: Mr Sergiy VLASENKO (Ukraine, EPP/CD) (AS/Jur)
Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission <i>Conseil des élections démocratiques de la Commission de Venise</i>	Representatives of AS/Pol, AS/Jur and AS/Mon approved by the Bureau of the Assembly <i>Représentants de l'AS/Pol, l'AS/Jur et l'AS/Mon approuvés par le Bureau de l'Assemblée</i>	Bureau decision of 10 March 2003 <i>Décision du Bureau du 10 mars 2003</i>	Members: Mr Michael Georg LINK (Germany, ALDE) (AS/Pol) Mr Pablo HISPÁN (Spain, EPP/CD) (AS/Jur) Ms Laura CASTEL (Spain, UEL) (AS/Mon) Substitutes: Mr Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC (Romania, EPP/CD) (AS/Pol) Ms Octavie MODERT (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) (AS/Jur) Ms Blerina GJYLAMETI (Albania, SOC) (AS/Mon)
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North-South Centre <i>Centre européen pour l'interdépendance et la solidarité mondiales – Centre Nord-Sud</i>	Two members of the Executive Council - appointed by the Bureau of the Assembly <i>Deux membres du Conseil exécutif - désignés par le Bureau de l'Assemblée</i>	Article 4.2 (b) of the North-South Centre revised Statute (Res CM (2011) 6) <i>Article 4.2 (b) du statut révisé du Centre Nord- Sud (Rés CM (2011) 6)</i>	Members: Ms Edite ESTRELA (Portugal, SOC) (AS/Cult) Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC) (AS/Soc) Substitutes: Ms Eka SEPASHVILI (Georgia, EC/DA) (AS/Cult) Ms Carmen LEYTE (Spain, EPP/CD) (AS/Soc)

Body / Organe	who represents the Assembly / qui représente l'Assemblée	reference	2024
<p>European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance – ECRI</p> <p><i>Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance – ECRI</i></p>	<p>Representatives of the Assembly appointed by the Bureau (representatives of the following three committees: AS/Pol, AS/Ega and AS/Cult)</p> <p><i>Représentants de l'Assemblée désignés par le Bureau (représentants des trois commissions suivantes : AS/Pol, AS/Ega et AS/Cult)</i></p>	<p>Article 5 of the ECRI Statute (Res CM (2002) 8)</p> <p><i>Article 5 du statut de l'ECRI (Rés CM (2002) 8)</i></p>	<p>Members:</p> <p>Mr Max LUCKS (Germany, SOC) (AS/Pol)</p> <p>Ms Mia KARAMEHIĆ-ABAZOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina, NR) (AS/Cult)</p> <p>Ms Petra BAYR (Austria, SOC) (AS/Ega)</p> <p>Substitutes:</p> <p>Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT (Türkiye, NR) (AS/Pol)</p> <p>ZZ (AS/Cult)</p> <p>Mr Fourat BEN CHIKHA (Belgium, SOC) (AS/Ega)</p>
<p>Group of States against Corruption – GRECO</p> <p><i>Groupe d'états contre la corruption - GRECO</i></p>	<p>A representative of the Assembly appointed by the Bureau</p> <p><i>Un représentant de l'Assemblée désigné par le Bureau</i></p>	<p>CM decision of 717th meeting in 2000 in accordance with Article 7.2 of the Statute of the GRECO</p> <p><i>Décision du CM lors de la 717ème réunion en 2000 selon l'Article 7.2. du Statut du GRECO</i></p>	<p>Member:</p> <p>Ms Agnes Sirkka PRAMMER (Austria, SOC) (AS/Jur)</p> <p>Substitute:</p> <p>Ms Elena-Simona SPĂTARU (Romania, ALDE) (AS/Jur)</p>
<p>Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI)</p> <p><i>Comité d'expert-es sur l'intelligence artificielle, l'égalité et la discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI)</i></p>	<p>The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:</p> <p>– Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;</p> <p><i>Peuvent envoyer des représentants sans droit de vote et à la charge de leurs budgets administratifs respectifs :</i></p> <p>– <i>l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe ;</i></p>	<p>CM/Res(2021)3</p>	<p>Ms Mireille CLAPOT (France, ALDE)</p>
<p>Committee for Works of Art (C-ART)</p> <p><i>Comité des œuvres d'art (C-ART)</i></p>	<p>Two members appointed by the Bureau of the Assembly (at present AS/Cult Committee member and Museum Prize rapporteur)</p> <p><i>Deux membres désignés par le Bureau de l'Assemblée (actuellement un membre de l'AS/Cult et le rapporteur du Prix du musée)</i></p>	<p>CM decision of 482nd meeting in 1992</p> <p><i>Décision du CM lors de la 482ème réunion en 1992</i></p>	<p>Member:</p> <p>Mr Constantinios EFSTATHIOU (Cyprus, SOC) (AS/Cult)</p> <p>Substitute:</p> <p>Mr David MORRIS, (United Kingdom, EC/DA) (AS/Cult)</p>

Body / Organe	who represents the Assembly / qui représente l'Assemblée	reference	2024
MONEYVAL	<p>A representative of the Assembly appointed by the Bureau</p> <p><i>Un représentant de l'Assemblée désigné par le Bureau</i></p>	<p>Article 4.1 of Resolution CM/Res (2010) 12</p> <p><i>Article 4.1 de la Résolution CM/Res (2010) 12</i></p>	<p>Member:</p> <p>Ms Maria-Gabriela HORGA (Romania, EPP/CD) (AS/Jur)</p> <p>Substitute:</p> <p>Ms Klotilda BUSHKA (Albania, SOC) (AS/Jur)</p>
<p>Committee of Experts on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (PC-ENV)</p> <p><i>Comité d'experts sur la protection de l'environnement par le droit pénal (PC-ENV)</i></p>	<p>The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:</p> <p>– Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;</p> <p><i>Peuvent envoyer des représentants sans droit de vote et à la charge de leurs budgets administratifs respectifs :</i></p> <p>– <i>l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe ;</i></p>	CM/Res(2021)3	<p>Members:</p> <p>Mr Constantinos EFSTATHIOU (Cyprus, SOC) (AS/Jur)</p> <p>Ms Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA (Ukraine, ALDE) (AS/Soc)</p> <p>Substitutes:</p> <p>ZZ (AS/Jur)</p> <p>Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC) (AS/Soc)</p>
<p>Committee on offences relating to cultural property (PC-IBC) / Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)</p> <p><i>Comité sur les infractions visant les biens culturels (PC-IBC) / Comité directeur de la culture, du patrimoine et du paysage (CDCPP)</i></p>	<p>The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:</p> <p>– Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;</p> <p><i>Un représentant de l'Assemblée désigné par le Bureau;</i></p>	<p>STCE n°221</p> <p>CM(2017)32, Chapter V, Article 23.1</p> <p>SG/Inf(2012)12</p>	<p>Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC) (AS/Cult)</p>
II. Others / Autres			
<p>EUROPA NOSTRA Pan-European Federation for Heritage</p> <p><i>EUROPA NOSTRA - Fédération paneuropéenne du patrimoine</i></p>	<p>One member (and substitute) to be nominated by the Assembly - to attend the Federation Council meetings as observer</p> <p><i>Un membre (et son/sa suppléant/e) qui seront désignés par l'Assemblée pour assister aux réunions du Conseil de la Fédération en tant qu'observateurs</i></p>	Article 21.4 of the Statute of Europa Nostra	<p>Member:</p> <p>ZZ (AS/Cult)</p> <p>Substitute:</p> <p>ZZ (AS/Cult)</p>