



AS/Per (2020) 04 part 1

7 May 2020

Bureau of the Assembly

References to committees

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Assembly upon instructions from the President

1. In accordance with Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau shall reach a decision on all documents mentioned in Rule 24.2.c and, if appropriate, *h*, if necessary after consulting one or more committees. It may decide that the documents shall be referred to one or more committees, forwarded to one or more committees for information, or that no further action be taken.
2. Moreover, in accordance with Rule 26.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau may refer a specific matter to a committee for a report to the Assembly, particularly as part of the action to be taken on an adopted report.
3. The Bureau shall submit these decisions for ratification as soon as possible, either by the Assembly or by the Standing Committee. A document may be referred to only one committee for report, though it may be referred to any other committee for an opinion.
4. It is understood, however, that reference of a question to a committee for examination does not necessarily imply that the committee concerned will draft a report. A committee to which a reference for opinion (written or oral) is made may only prepare that opinion if the committee to which the reference for report was made has itself produced a report.
5. It is recalled that a reference to committee shall lapse in two years or, at the request of the committee concerned, by a decision of the Assembly (Rule 26.4 of the Rules of Procedure).
6. The Bureau shall apply the guidelines for consideration of motions for resolutions and recommendations ratified by the Assembly on 24 June 2019 (Appendix V of the Complementary texts to the Rules of Procedure).

Guidelines for consideration of motions for resolutions and recommendations¹

1. New motions – following their tabling and provided they are in order – shall be submitted to the nearest meeting of the Presidential Committee. The Presidential Committee shall consider motions and make proposals to the Bureau of the Assembly on a possible follow-up.
2. Proposals of the Presidential Committee shall be subsequently distributed to committee chairpersons for information in time before the second Bureau meeting following the Presidential Committee meeting mentioned in paragraph 1.
3. The Bureau, at its second meeting following the said Presidential Committee meeting, shall consider and take position on all motions, and decide their reference for report, transmission for information to committees, or that no further action is needed (in line with Rule 26). The Bureau may also decide to refer a motion to a committee to be taken into account in the preparation of an ongoing report.
4. Titles of motions tabled cannot be modified by the Bureau. However, the Bureau may decide on a merge of several motions concerning the same or a similar subject under a new title.
5. The Bureau decisions on references shall be submitted to the nearest sitting of the Assembly or of the Standing Committee for ratification.
6. If a decision taken by the Bureau on a motion is successfully challenged in the Assembly or the Standing Committee, the motion will be referred back to the Bureau for reconsideration.
7. References – once ratified by the Assembly/Standing Committee – cannot be subsequently challenged or modified (except in the case of additional reference to a committee for opinion).
8. Delays or postponements in consideration of references by the Presidential Committee or the Bureau shall not be allowed (a request for a consultation by the committee concerned before the decision on a reference is taken by the Bureau shall not be considered as a postponement; the decision of the Bureau, taken on the Monday morning meeting during a part-session, to postpone consideration of the references initially scheduled on that day to its meeting of Friday morning the same week, will not be considered as a postponement as well).
9. References shall remain valid for the time foreseen in the Rules of Procedure (Rule 26.4). The Bureau of the Assembly shall not accept any request for the prolongation of the validity of references.
10. When considering new motions the Presidential Committee and the Bureau shall respect the following guidelines:
 - a. the motion shall fall within the scope of the Council of Europe's competences;
 - b. the relevance of a motion should be taken into account, especially when it concerns new issues and challenges, with the aim of enhancing the political relevance and visibility of the Assembly; paragraph 11 of Resolution 2277 (2019) shall be used as a guiding line in this respect;
 - c. the previous work of the Assembly in the field concerned should be taken into account;
 - d. as well as the existence of previous motions tabled which are still under consideration by the committees.

¹ Approved by the Bureau of the Assembly on 23 May 2019 and ratified by the Assembly on 24 June 2019.

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Widespread recurring violence against security, fire and medical services on New Year's Eve: how to restore trust and the rule of law**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Sir Roger Gale and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15066](#)

Proposal: no further action

2. **Enhancing participation of women from vulnerable groups in political and public decision-making**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Maryna Bardina and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15067](#)

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

3. **Artificial intelligence and climate change**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Alvise Maniero and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15068](#)

Proposal: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*

4. **Gender mainstreaming of migration policies**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15069](#)

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

5. **Employment of disabled people in Europe**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Antonio Gutiérrez and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15070](#)

Proposal: no further action

(The Assembly adopted Resolution 2258 (2019) on “For a disability-inclusive workforce”)

6. **Prevention of abuse of mutual legal co-operation with respect to refugees and asylum seekers**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15071](#)

Proposal: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*

(The Assembly adopted Resolution 2315 (2019) on “Interpol reform and extradition proceedings: building trust by fighting abuse” and Resolution 2161 (2017) on “Abusive recourse to the Interpol system: the need for more stringent legal safeguards”)

7. **Re-establishing sustainable living conditions for autochthonous communities in balance with their natural environments in member States**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Barna Pál Zsigmond and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15072](#)

Proposal: no further action

8. **The Parliamentary Assembly's role in developing a systematic approach to cope with global epidemic outbreaks**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Emine Nur Günay and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15073](#)

Proposal: no further action

- 9. Impact of armed conflicts on transboundary environmental damage**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Lesia Vasylenko and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15074](#)

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

- 10. For an assessment of the means and provisions to combat children's exposure to pornographic content**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Dimitri Houbbron and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15077](#)

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*

- 11. Food ethics in Europe: a citizen's issue that concerns all of us**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Sylvain Waserman and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15078](#)

Proposal: no further action

- 12. Introducing sustainable management practices in forests of the continental biogeographical region**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15079](#)

Proposal: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*

- 13. How to move forward to make businesses more responsible for human rights abuses?**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Boriss Cilevičs and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15080](#)

Proposal: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*

(The Assembly adopted Resolution 2311 (2019) and Recommendation 2166 (2019) on “Human rights and business – what follow-up to Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)3?”)

- 14. The crackdown on human rights defenders and NGOs in the field of refugee rescue, support and integration**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Michel Brandt and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15081](#)

Proposal: no further action

(The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons is preparing a report on “Rights and obligations of NGOs assisting refugees and migrants in Europe”)

- 15. Voluntary relocation for migrants in need of humanitarian protection**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Lord Alexander Dundee and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15082](#)

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

- 16. COVID-19 – an effective and human rights-compliant response**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Jennifer De Temmerman and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 15094](#)

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* with the title: “Lessons for future public health emergencies from an effective and rights-based response to the COVID-19 pandemic”.

17. Democracies facing the COVID-19 pandemic
Bureau decision

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

18. Women's rights must withstand the COVID-19 crisis
Bureau decision

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

19. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human rights and the rule of law
Bureau decision

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*

20. Humanitarian consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for migrants and refugees
Bureau decision

Proposal: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*