



Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Work Programme

Contents:

A.	List of forthcoming meetings 2020 / 2021	2
B.	Main activities and reports.....	3
	① Partnership for democracy status: evaluations	3
	② External Relations.....	3
	③ Relations with the OECD and the EBRD	5
	④ Current challenges with respect to the state of democracy in Europe and its neighbourhood	6
	⑤ Opinions	9
C.	Follow-up of adopted texts	10
D.	Institutional representation of the Committee in 2020.....	12
E.	Bureaux of the Committee and of its Sub-Committees in 2020.....	12
F.	Secretariat of the Committee.....	12

General terms of reference applicable to all Assembly committees and Specific terms of reference of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (Extracts of Resolution 1842 (2011))

Follow us on Twitter: [@PACE_Political](https://twitter.com/PACE_Political)

A. List of forthcoming meetings 2020 / 2021

DECEMBER		
10	Videoconference	Committee
JANUARY		
25 - 29	tbc	1st part-session
FEBRUARY		
4	tbc	Committee
MARCH		
10	tbc	Committee
APRIL		
19-23	tbc	2nd part-session
MAY		
11	tbc	Committee
JUNE		
21 - 25	tbc	3rd part-session
OCTOBER		
27.09 - 01.10	tbc	4th part-session
NOVEMBER		
4	tbc	Committee
DECEMBER		
6	tbc	Committee

B. Main activities and reports¹

① Partnership for democracy status: evaluations

THE EVALUATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY IN RESPECT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF JORDAN

.Rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL (appointed on 29.01.2020)

Former Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC (appointed on 25.01.2018)

.Origin: Doc 14975, Ref 4476 of 29.11.2019

.Expiry date for adoption: 29.11.2021, extended until 29.05.2022

.Texts adopted by the Assembly on the basis of reports prepared by the Committee: Res 2183 (2017), Res 2086 (2016)

.State of work:

- **January 2020 part-session** – The Committee appointed Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL) as Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest.

ASSESSING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY

.Rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD (appointed on 14.11.2019)

.Origin: Doc. 14942, Reference 4468 of 30.09.2019

.Expiry date for adoption: 30.09.2021, extended until 30.03.2022

.State of work:

- **14 November 2019** – The Committee appointed Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest.

- **10 December 2020** – The Committee will hold an exchange of views with Ambassador Rémi Mortier, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations of the Committee of Ministers (tbc) and with representatives of partner for democracy delegations.

② External Relations

SUB-COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- **5-6 December 2018** – The Sub-Committee had meetings with UN high officials at the UN Headquarters in New York.

- **16 December 2019** – Further to the invitation by the First Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament Tuula Haatainen, the Sub-Committee met in Rovaniemi. It held an exchange of views on *Developments in the Arctic region and opportunities for international co-operation* with the participation of Mr Timo Koivurova, Research Professor, Director of the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland; Mr Eirik Sivertsen, Chairperson of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Member of the Norwegian Parliament; Mr Einar Gunnarsson, Ambassador Arctic Affairs, Chairperson of the Senior Arctic Officials, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland; Ms Torill Eidsheim, Special representative on Arctic Issues of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Member of the Norwegian Parliament; and Mr Jason Tolland, Ambassador of Canada to Finland. The Sub-committee also held an exchange of views on *Climate change in the Arctic* with the participation of Mr Bruce Forbes, Research Professor, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland; and on *UArctic: universities collaborating in and about the Arctic for a sustainable world* with the participation of Mr Scott Forrest, Chief Communications Officer, University of the Arctic (UArctic). The Sub-committee agreed to reflect further whether and how the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe could play a more active role with respect to the parliamentary cooperation in the Arctic region.

- **January 2020 part-session** – The Sub-Committee agreed to the proposal by the Chairperson to prepare a motion for a resolution on the issues raised during the meeting in Rovaniemi (16 December 2019) related to the Arctic region. It took note of the Memorandum on External relations of the Parliamentary Assembly, approved by the Assembly on 27 January 2020, and agreed to hold a thorough discussion on its follow-up at a further meeting. It also took note that a meeting of the Sub-Committee was to be held at the UN Headquarters in New York in 2020 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau and to the availability of funds).

¹ Further to the Decision of the Bureau of the Assembly at its meeting on 30 April 2020, all current references to Committees have been extended by six months.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE ARAB WORLD

- **28-30 November 2014** – The Sub-Committee met in the Palestinian Territories and in Israel.
- **April 2016 part-session** – The Sub-Committee held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East with the observer delegation of the Knesset and the partner for democracy delegation of the Palestinian National Council. It also considered a possible meeting in Tunis (Tunisia).
- **June 2016 part-session** – The Sub-Committee held an exchange of views with Mr Mohamed Abbasy, Mr Belal El Nahal and Mr Tarek Radwan, members of the Egyptian House of Representatives and heard statements by Mr Bernard Sabella (PNC) and Ms Aliza Lavie (Knesset) on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **25 January 2017** – The Sub-Committee was informed by the Chairperson of the unsuccessful efforts to hold a meeting in Tunis in 2016. It also held an exchange of views with delegations from the Knesset and the Palestinian National Council.
- **6 September 2017** – The Sub-Committee took note of the appointment, by the Committee, of Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) as Rapporteur on *A two-State solution in Israel and Palestine*, and held an exchange of views with the delegations from the Knesset and the Palestinian National Council. It also discussed the possibility of holding a meeting in Israel and Palestine in 2018.
- **January 2018 part-session** – The Sub-Committee asked its Chairperson and the Secretariat to start preparing a meeting of the Sub-Committee in Israel and Palestine in 2018.
- **April 2018 part-session** – The Sub-Committee met on 24 April 2018 and tasked its Chairperson to write to the delegations of Israel, Palestine and Jordan in respect of a possible meeting in the region. This was subsequently done on 25 April 2018.
- **June 2018 part-session** – The Sub-Committee was informed of contacts by the Chairperson and the Secretariat with the Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian delegations with a view to organising a meeting in the region in 2018 and decided to keep all options open. The Sub-Committee also took note of an exchange of letters between Ms Aliza Lavie, Chairperson of the Israeli observer delegation, and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly; welcomed the signature by the Palestinian authority of the Protocol on the abolition of the death penalty; and was informed of the extension of the administrative detention of Ms Khalida Jarrar, member of the Palestinian partner for democracy delegation.
- **11 September 2018** – The Committee was informed by Mr Kais Zayadin (Jordan) of the negative consequences for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the near east (UNRWA) after the United States announced that it would provide no additional funding. It was also informed by Mr Bernard Sabella (Palestine) on the decision of the USA administration to close the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representation in Washington and on the imminent dismantling of the Bedouin community Khan Al-Ahmar.
- **April 2019 part-session** – The Sub-Committee held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East.
- **January 2020 part-session** – As a follow-up to the meeting of the Sub-committee on the Middle East and the Arab World of 30 January 2020, the Committee heard a statement by Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, held an exchange of views and approved a declaration by the Committee.
- **12 June 2020** – The Sub-Committee, meeting via videoconference, held a discussion as follow-up to the current affairs debate held in the Assembly on 30 January 2020 and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Salman Elherfi, Ambassador, Head of the Palestinian Mission in France, and Mr Yaron Gamburg, Deputy Chief of Mission, Permanent delegation of Israel to multilateral organisations, Secretary of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) delegation to PACE.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBYA AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST: WHAT CONSEQUENCES FOR EUROPE?

.Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC (appointed on 08.09.2020)

.Origin: Decision of the Bureau on 31.01.2020, Ref 4494 of 31.01.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 31.01.2022 extended until 31.07.2022

.State of work:

- **January 2020 part-session** – The Committee held an open discussion on recent developments in the Middle East, on the situation in Libya and the consequences for Europe.
- **12 June 2020** – The Sub-Committee on the Middle East and Arab World, meeting via video conference, held a discussion as follow-up to the current affairs debate held in the Assembly on 30 January 2020.
- **8 September 2020** – The Committee heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, held an exchange of views on the follow up to the current affairs debate and the scope of the report, and appointed Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) as Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests.
- **23 September 2020** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Sharren Haskel, member of the Israeli Knesset.

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE WITH ALGERIA

.Rapporteur: Mr Jacques Maire, France, ALDE (appointed on 27.06.2018)

.Origin: Doc 14476, Ref. 4363 of 15.03.2018

.Expiry for adoption: 15.03.2020 extended until 15.12.2020 and until 15.06.2021

.State of work:

- **6 November 2018** – M. Morad Helis, Vice-President of the Algerian National People's Assembly, and M. Mohamed Saadani, Vice-President of the Algerian Council of the Nation, participated in the Parliamentary Conference on *Building democratic security in the Mediterranean: common challenges, shared responsibility*, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- **5 March 2019** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to organise an exchange of views with representatives of the Algerian Parliament during the April part-session.
- **April 2019 part-session** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with a delegation from the Algerian Council of the Nation.
- **20 May 2019** – The Committee held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Sophie Bessis, Research Associate, Institute of International and Strategic Relations (IRIS), Paris, and with Mr Nacer-Eddine Ghozali, former professor of law, University of Paris XIII.
- **June 2019 part-session** – The Committee held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Rachid Achour, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, of International Co-operation and the Algerian community abroad, head of the delegation; Mr Fouad Sebouta and Mr Rabah Benyoub, members of the Algerian Council of the Nation; and Mr Rahim Hichem and Mr Chebill Lazhar, members of the National People's Assembly; and considered an introductory memorandum and an outline for report.
- **October 2019 part-session** – The Committee heard a statement by the rapporteur.
- **9 December 2019** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur.
- **January 2020 part-session** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur and upon his proposal agreed to request an extension of the reference until 15 December 2020.
- **23 September 2020** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur and considered a revised introductory memorandum.

③ Relations with the OECD and the EBRD

FIGHTING FISCAL INJUSTICE AND THE WORK OF THE OECD ON TAXATION OF DIGITAL ECONOMY

.Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Katrougkalos, Greece, UEL (appointed on 29.01.2020)

.Committee seized for opinion:

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Ms Selin Sayek Böke, Turkey, SOC

.Origin: Doc 14976, Ref 4477 of 29.11.2019

.Expiry date for adoption: 29.11.2021 extended until 29.05.2022

.State of work:

- **October 2019 part-session** – In view of the expiry of the former reference on 20 January 2020 and the resignation of the Rapporteur, Mr Ervin Bushati (Albania, SOC), the Committee considered and adopted a motion for a resolution (see Doc 14976).
- **9 December 2019** – The Committee called for candidates.
- **January 2020 part-session** – The Committee appointed Mr Georgios Katrougkalos (Greece, UEL) as Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest.
- **28 May 2020** – The Committee, meeting via videoconference, heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to change the name of the report to Fighting fiscal injustice and the work of the OECD on taxation of digital economy.
- **23 June 2020** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur; considered an introductory memorandum and took note that the report should be put to the Committee for adoption at its meeting in Chania, Crete (Greece), on 17 and 18 September 2020.
- **6 July 2020** – The Rapporteur held an exchange of views, by videoconference, with Ms Ana Xavier, Head of Unit, European Commission, Economic analysis, Evaluation and Impact assessment support; and Mr David Bradbury, Head of the Tax Policy and Statistics Division at the OECD.

④ Current challenges with respect to the state of democracy in Europe and its neighbourhood

THE SITUATION IN KOSOVO²

.Rapporteur: Mr Peter Beyer, Germany, EPP/CD (appointed on 14.11.2019)

.Origin: Doc. 14921, Ref 4462 of 30.09.2019

.Expiry date for adoption: 30.09.2021 extended until 30.03.2022

.Texts adopted by the Assembly on the basis of reports prepared by the Committee: Res 2094 (2016); Res 1912 (2013) and Rec 2006 (2013); Res 1739 (2010), Rec 1923 (2010)

.State of work:

- **20 May 2019** – The Committee heard a statement by the Chairperson, took note of the resignation of the Rapporteur, Mr Roca, and that the reference 4297 of 30 May 2017 would expire on 30 May 2019; agreed that a new motion on the situation in Kosovo should be considered by the Committee during the June part-session.
- **June 2019 part-session** – The Committee considered and adopted a motion for a resolution which was subsequently tabled.
- **14 November 2019** – The Committee appointed Mr Peter Beyer (Germany, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest.

RESHAPING THE FOUNDATIONS OF MULTILATERALISM

.Rapporteur: to be appointed

.Committee seized for opinion:

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: to be appointed

.Origin: Doc 14588, Ref. 4397 of 08.10.2018

.Expiry date for adoption: 08.10.2020 extended until 08.04.2021

.State of work:

- **11 December 2018** – The Committee decided to keep the reference on its work programme and to examine it at a later date, in light of the report on *Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

FOSTERING HEALTHY DEMOCRACIES IN EUROPE

.Rapporteur: Ms Marie-Christine Dalloz, France, EPP/CD (appointed on 25.06.2019)

.Committee seized for opinion:

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD)

.Origin: Doc 14823, Ref. 4441 of 12.04.2019

.Expiry date for adoption: 12.04.2021 extended until 12.10.2021

.State of work:

- **January 2020 part-session** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur, including a declaration of absence of conflict of interests; considered an introductory memorandum, decided to change the title of the report (previously *Countering ill democracies in Europe*) and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Larry Diamond, Senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies of the Stanford University and Mr Michael Frendo, member of the Venice Commission (both via video link).
- **25 March 2020** – A revised introductory memorandum was sent to members for written comments.
- **8 September 2020** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to request a contribution by the Venice Commission with a view to gaining a better understanding of the Council of Europe's constitutional *acquis* in this area.

TRANSPARENCY AND REGULATION OF DONATIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS FROM FOREIGN DONORS

.Rapporteur: Mr Konstantin Kuhle, Germany, ALDE (appointed on 27.06.2019)

.Origin: Doc 14818, Ref. 4438 of 12.04.2019

.Expiry date for adoption: 12.04.2021 extended until 12.10.2021

.State of work:

- **14 November 2019** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur, including a declaration of absence of conflict of interests.
- **25 March 2020** – An outline for report was sent to members for written comments.

² Throughout this text, 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.

- **15 October 2020** – The Committee held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Yves-Marie Doublet, Deputy Director at the French National Assembly, expert to the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO); Mr Nicolae Eșanu (Republic of Moldova), Substitute member of the Venice Commission, Legal Advisor to the Prime Minister; and Mr Fernando Casal Bértoa, Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham and member of the OSCE/ODIHR Core Group of Political Party Experts, and took note that the Rapporteur would organise further hearings and bilateral meetings at a later stage.

TEN YEARS AFTER THE LISBON TREATY: STRENGTHENING COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND EUROPEAN UNION CO-OPERATION

.Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlățean, Romania, SOC (appointed on 25.06.2019)

.Origin: Doc 14866, Ref. 4444 of 12.04.2019

.Expiry date for adoption: 12.04.2021 extended until 12.10.2021

.Other texts: [Resolution 2273 \(2019\)](#) Establishment of a European Union mechanisms on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights; [Resolution 2277 \(2019\)](#) Role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly: main challenges for the future.

State of work:

- **October 2019 part-session** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur including a declaration of absence of conflict of interests; held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe; Mr Zoltan Taubner, Director of the Directorate of External Relations of the Council of Europe, Head of Brussels office; and Mr Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service.
- **14 November 2019** – The Committee heard a statement by Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL), former Rapporteur on the *Role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly: main challenges for the future*, joined by Mr Corlățean, welcoming the adoption, by the Council of the European Union, of supplementary negotiating directives aimed at the swift resumption of negotiations with the Council of Europe on EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.
- **18 November 2019** – The Rapporteur participated in a Seminar on the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights, in Strasbourg.
- **January 2020 part-session** – The Committee authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Brussels in the framework of the preparation of his report (subject to the availability of funds).
- **25 March 2020** – An introductory memorandum was sent to members for written comments.
- **10 December 2020** – The Committee will hear a statement by the Rapporteur and will hold a hearing with the participation of Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly; Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Chairperson of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Member of the European Parliament (Spain - Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament), Ms Fabienne Keller, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Member of the European Parliament, (France – Group Renew Europe), Mr Sandro Gozi, Member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Member of the European Parliament, (France – Group Renew Europe), Mr Stefano Sannino, Deputy Secretary General for Global and Economic Issues, European External Action Service, Mr Jeroen Hooijer, Head of Unit, “Inter-institutional – international coordination”, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission, Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe.

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AS A CORNERSTONE OF THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL ARCHITECTURE

.Rapporteur: Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Iceland, UEL (appointed on 23.06.2020)

.Origin: Doc. 14991, Reference 4485 of 27.01.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 27.01.2022 extended until 27.07.2022

State of work:

- **23 June 2020** – The Committee appointed Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir (Iceland, UEL) and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests.
- **8 September 2020** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur.
- **10 December 2020** – The Committee will hear a statement by the Rapporteur and will consider an outline for report.

THE ASSEMBLY MUST CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORING PEACE IN UKRAINE

.Rapporteur: to be appointed

.Origin: Doc. 14992, Reference 4486 of 27.01.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 27.01.2022 extended until 27.07.2022

State of work:

- **January 2020 part-session** – The Committee called for candidates.

MORE PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

.Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC (appointed on 23.06.2020)

.Origin: Doc.15048, Reference 4500 of 06.03.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 06.03.2022 extended until 09.09.2022

.State of work:

- **23 June 2020** – The Committee appointed Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests.
- **8 September 2020** – The Committee heard a statement by the Rapporteur.
- **15 October 2020** – The Committee held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Thierry Pech, co-Chair of the Citizens' Convention on Climate, France.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY AND THE OPPOSITION IN A DEMOCRACY

.Rapporteur: Ms Marija Golubeva, Latvia, ALDE (appointed on 23.09.2020)

.Origin: Doc.15047, Reference 4499 of 06.03.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 06.03.2022 extended until 09.09.2022

.State of work:

- **23 September 2020** – The Committee appointed Ms Marija Golubeva (Latvia, ALDE) Rapporteur and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests.

CALL FOR AN INCLUSIVE NATIONAL POLITICAL PROCESS IN BELARUS

.Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC (appointed on 23.09.2020)

.Origin: Doc. 15130, Reference 4527 of 15.09.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 15.09.2022

.State of work:

- **23 September 2020** – The Committee appointed Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC) Rapporteur and heard from him his declaration of absence of conflict of interests. The Committee heard a statement from the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission.
- **10 December 2020** – The Committee will hear a statement by the Rapporteur.

URGENT NEED FOR ELECTORAL REFORM IN BELARUS

.Rapporteur: Lord David Blencathra, United Kingdom, EC/DA (appointed on 23.09.2020)

.Origin: Doc. 15131, Reference 4528 of 15.09.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 15.09.2022

.State of work:

- **23 September 2020** – The Committee appointed Lord David Blencathra (United Kingdom, EC/DA) Rapporteur and heard from him his declaration of absence of conflict of interests. The Committee heard a statement from the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission.
- **10 December 2020** – The Committee will hear a statement by the Rapporteur, consider an introductory memorandum and hold an exchange of views.

SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN SEA

.Rapporteur: to be appointed

.Origin: Doc. 15160, Reference 4540 of 12.10.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 12.10.2022

.State of work:

- **15 October 2020** – The Committee called for candidates.
- **10 December 2020** – The Committee will appoint a Rapporteur.

THE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

.Rapporteur: to be appointed

.Origin: Doc. 15162, Reference 4541 of 12.10.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 12.10.2022

.State of work:

- **15 October 2020** – The Committee called for candidates.
- **10 December 2020** – The Committee will appoint a Rapporteur.

PROTECTING THE PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY DURING HEALTH CRISES

.Rapporteur: to be appointed

.Origin: Doc. 15176, Reference 4547 of 20.11.2020

- . **Expiry date for adoption:** 20.11.2022
- . **State of work:**
- **10 December 2020** – The Committee will call for candidates

⑤ Opinions

FIGHTING CORRUPTION – GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD)

.Committee seized for opinion:

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC (appointed on 05.03.2019)

.Origin: [Doc 14639](#), Reference 4412 of 23.11.2018

.Expiry date for adoption: 23.11.2020 extended until 23.05.2021

.State of work:

JUSTICE AND SECURITY FOR WOMEN IN PEACE RECONCILIATION

Rapporteur of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE)

Committee seized for opinion:

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Rapporteur to be appointed

.Origin: [Doc.15045](#), Reference 4497 of 06.03.2020

.Expiry date for adoption: 06.09.2022

.State of work:

- **10 December 2020** - The Committee will call for candidates.

C. Follow-up of adopted texts

Standing Committee (Enlarged) October 2020

Resolution 2341 (2020) and Recommendation 2181 (2020) Need for democratic governance of artificial intelligence

Rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD

Resolution 2337 (2020) and Recommendation 2179 (2020) Democracies facing the Covid-19 pandemic

Rapporteur: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA

Standing Committee September 2020

Resolution 2332 (2020) Setting minimum standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections

Rapporteur: Mr Rik Daems, Belgium, ALDE

Transmission of the adopted text: Letter sent to Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission on 21 September 2020.

January 2020 part-session

Resolution 2326 (2020) Democracy hacked? How to respond?

Rapporteur: Mr Frithjof Schmidt, Germany, SOC

Transmission of the adopted text: Letter sent to Ms Helga Schmid, Secretary General, EEAS Brussels, on 4 February 2020.

Resolution 2319 (2020) Complementary joint procedure between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly in response to a serious violation by a member State of its statutory obligations

Rapporteur: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC

October 2019 part-session

Resolution 2303 (2019) and Recommendation 2164 (2019) Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism

Rapporteur : Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC

Transmission of the adopted text: Letter sent to Mr Levent Altan, Executive Director, Victims Support Europe, Brussels, on 10 October 2019.

14 August 2020 – The Committee received the reply of the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2161 (2019) [Doc.15124](#).

10 December 2020 – The Committee will hear a statement by the Rapporteur, consider the reply by the Committee of Ministers and hold an exchange of views.

January 2019 part-session

Resolution 2251 (2019) Updating guidelines to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States

Rapporteur: Dame Cheryl Gillan, United Kingdom, EC/DA

7-8 October 2020 – The former Rapporteur participated in the meeting of the Council for democratic elections of the Venice Commission and in the plenary meeting, whereby the Venice Commission adopted Revised guidelines on the holding of Referendums as a follow-up to the report and the Resolution.

June 2017 Part-session

Resolution 2172 (2017) and Recommendation 2107 (2017) The situation in Belarus

Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE

Paragraph 7.3. of [Resolution 2172](#) of 27 June 2017 states [The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy is invited] “to consider stepping up dialogue with the Parliament and independent civil society of Belarus by inviting members of parliament from the majority and the opposition, as well as representatives of independent civil society and of opposition political forces not represented in parliament, to attend its meetings during the Assembly part-sessions over the next two years.”

October 2017 part-session - The Committee held an exchange of views with Mr Andrei Naumovich, Head of the working group on the death penalty issue, National Assembly of Belarus (majority); Ms Elena Anissim, member of the Standing Committee on education, culture and science, National Assembly of Belarus (opposition); Mr Ales Bialiatski, Viasna Human Rights Centre; and Mr Vital Rymasheuski, Belarusian Christian Democracy Party; in conformity with paragraph 7.3 of the Resolution.

13 October 2017 - The Bureau of the Assembly authorised Mr Rigoni to participate in the meetings of the Working Group on the death penalty issue, in Minsk, Republic of Belarus, in November 2017.

14 December 2017 - The Committee considered the reply by the Committee of Ministers to [Recommendation 2107](#) and heard a statement by M. Rigoni on his participation in the meetings of the Working Group on the death penalty issue, Minsk, 23-25 November 2017.

25 January 2018 -The Committee held an exchange of views with members of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus: Mr Andrei Naumovich, Head of the Working group on the death penalty issues, Chair of the Standing Committee on Human rights, national relations and media, and Ms Anna Kanopatskaya, member of the Working group on death penalty issues and of the Standing Committee on economic issues, respectively from the majority and from the opposition; and was informed that neither a representative of independent civil society nor of opposition political forces not represented in parliament were able to attend this part-session.

25 April 2018 - The Committee held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Andrei Naumovich, Head of Working group on the Death penalty issues, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human rights, national relations and media, House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus; Ms Alena Anisim, member of the Committee on Education, Culture and Science, House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus; and Ms Tatsiana Karatkevich, Chairperson of the Civic Campaign Tell the Truth.

October 2019 part-session – The Committee held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Maksim Misko, Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Commission on Law, House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus; Ms Anna Kanopatskaya, Member of the Standing Commission on Economic Policy, House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus; Mr Ales Bialiatski, Chairperson, Viasna Human Rights Centre, Minsk; and Mr Vital Rymasheuski, Co-Chairman of the Belarusian Christian Democracy party.

9 December 2019 – The Committee heard a statement by Lord David Blencathra (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Chairperson of the PACE ad hoc Committee for the observation of the early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Belarus (17 November 2019) and held an exchange of views.

8 September 2020 – The Committee held an exchange of views on *The situation in Belarus following Presidential elections on 9 August 2020* with the participation of Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly; Ms Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, former Belarusian presidential candidate; and Mr Andrei Savinykh, Chairperson of the Standing Commission on International Affairs of the National Assembly of Belarus (open to the public).

15 September 2020 – The Standing Committee referred two reports on the subject to the Committee, see reports under preparation, part B ④.

D. Institutional representation of the Committee in 2020

Council for democratic elections of the Venice Commission:

- Member: Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC)
- Substitute: Mr Corneliu Mugurel Cozmanciuc (Romania, EPP/CD)

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI):

- Member: Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC)
- Substitute: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD)

E. Bureaux of the Committee and of its Sub-Committees in 2020

Plenary committee

Chairperson: Dame Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC/DA)
1st Vice-Chairperson: Mr Andreas Nick (Germany, EPP/CD)
2nd Vice-Chairperson: Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC)
3rd Vice-Chairperson: Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE)

Permanent Sub-Committees

Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World

Chairperson: Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL)
Vice-Chairperson: ...

Sub-Committee on External Relations

Chairperson: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD)
Vice-Chairperson: ...

F. Secretariat of the Committee

Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou, Head of the Secretariat
Tel + 33 3 88 41 30 75
Email: despina.chatzivassiliou@coe.int

Mr Pavel Chevtchenko, Secretary
Tel + 33 3 88 41 38 35
Email: pavel.chevtchenko@coe.int

Ms Ayşegül Elveriş, Secretary
Tel + 33 3 88 41 23 32
Email: aysegul.elveris@coe.int

Ms Silvia Arzilli, Secretary
Tel + 33 3 90 21 48 98
Email: silvia.arzilli@coe.int

Ms Nicola Stemp, Administrative Assistant
Tel + 33 3 88 41 21 23
Email: nicola.stemp@coe.int

Ms Noémie Schoen, Assistant
Tel +33 3 90 21 61 40
Email: noemie.schoen@coe.int

**Council of Europe
Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Committee on Political Affairs and
Democracy**

Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

aspol@coe.int

https://twitter.com/PACE_Political