



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parliamentary Project Support Division

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Parliamentary co-operation activities

Work plan 2022

I. Focus on enhancing impact of texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly and efficient implementation of the Council of Europe standards

1. The purpose of the parliamentary cooperation activities is to increase the impact of the Assembly's work by making its adopted texts better known and their follow-up enhanced, including by the national parliaments, as well as to include parliamentary dimension in the cooperation work carried out by the Council of Europe.

2. Through the activities proposed in 2022 and building on the initiatives started during the previous years, focus areas have been selected bearing in mind the strategic priorities of the Organisation as a whole, as agreed by the member States by adopting the Council of Europe Programme and Budget 2022-2025.¹ Leading principle in this work is to provide support to members of national parliaments, including parliaments having the status of Partners for Democracy, in the promotion and ratification process, as well as in the effective implementation of key Council of Europe conventions.

3. Before a cooperation activity is conceptualised, careful assessment is made to ensure tangible added value, outputs, outcomes and impact. Activities are carried out in full agreement and cooperation with the beneficiary parliament(s).

4. Much of this cooperation work takes form of exchange of good practice and sharing of experience and all activities, be it parliamentary conferences or seminars, are organised in close co-operation with the relevant Assembly Committee or Sub-committee and its members and rapporteurs, who are knowledgeable about the thematic of the event. Parliamentary cooperation activities follow the peer-to-peer character of the exchanges among members of national parliaments and are extended also to members who are not members of national delegations to the Assembly. Conferences and seminars are organised around a well-defined agenda in the framework, either of a thematic project or of regional or country specific projects. In addition, handbooks are being developed and translated into different languages to support parliamentarians in their role in implementing relevant standards.

5. Moreover, information seminars and workshops for the staff of national parliaments are organised to improve their knowledge of relevant legal instruments of the Council of Europe as well as the structure and functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly. Their goal is to improve the capacity of staff members to support parliamentarians in their activities.

II. Sources of financing – vital role of voluntary contributions

6. The Assembly Ordinary Budget (OB) contributes towards the parliamentary cooperation activities (141.500 euros/year).

7. At the same time, voluntary contributions from national parliaments are vital for achieving what is described in the previous chapter. In particular, thanks to this financial support, tangible results have been achieved over the past years. In this respect, on 17 November 2021, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly wrote to the Chairpersons of national delegations to the PACE, calling for financial support from their parliaments for funding of selected parliamentary projects.

8. Scheduled activities (to be financed from the Assembly OB and sometimes supported by voluntary contributions) include the following thematic multilateral periodic seminars for national parliaments on:

- the role of national parliaments in implementing ECHR standards and in the oversight of the execution of ECtHR judgments;
 - the role of national parliaments in implementing CPT standards;
 - the co-operation on electoral matters;
 - events organised for the Partners for Democracy.

¹ CM(2021)130

9. Moreover, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe appeals to the Committee of Ministers for voluntary contributions for projects that involve different sectors and institutions of the Council of Europe; the voluntary contributions received from member States cover various projects, specific action plans and campaigns.

10. Furthermore, to complement voluntary contributions, Council of Europe-EU joint programmes, financed both by the EU and Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe, provide a sizeable share of guaranteed funding.

III. Priority areas for future action

i. Projects to be funded by voluntary contributions from national parliaments

11. For 2022, the priority areas of co-operation to be funded from voluntary contributions from national parliaments include the following:

- **The Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence** provides a crucial parliamentary forum and partner for the Council of Europe's work to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. In 2022, the Network will organise activities to promote the signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). In addition, the Handbook for parliamentarians on the Istanbul Convention will be translated into several additional languages to facilitate a greater involvement of parliamentarians in its implementation.

- **The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance** has been taking, since its establishment in 2015, an open, firm and pro-active stand against racism, hatred and intolerance on whatever grounds and however they manifest themselves. In 2022, the Alliance will continue to mobilise and empower parliamentarians on five priority themes: Hate Speech, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Anti-gypsyism, Homo- and Transphobia, basing its work notably on relevant ECRI recommendations. The Alliance will organise thematic conferences, at national and regional levels, focusing on updating the Charter of European Political Parties for a non-racist society. In addition, the Alliance will publish and translate a new Handbook for parliamentarians on hate speech, including good practices and practical examples on countering hate speech online.

- **The Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment** will start its work in January 2022 to contribute towards building and consolidating a legal framework – domestically and at European level – to anchor the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The Network will build on the Assembly's resolutions and recommendations (notably, those adopted in September 2017 as part of a thematic debate on Environment and Human Rights) to inspire and follow the action taken by the national authorities to honour the strong commitments they have made vis-à-vis the climate crisis, while fostering the mutual enrichment of ideas and setting up regular opportunities for parliamentarians in Europe and on other continents to pool their experience. A new Handbook for parliamentarians will also be developed in this area.

- **A parliamentary action project on the Rights of the Child** will continue to support parliamentarians in implementing the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention), as well as in their contribution towards the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 (UNSDG 16.2.). In addition, the Council of Europe new Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) will be promoted. Special focus will be placed on child participation and violence against children, with due regard to new challenges linked to the Covid-19. A new Handbook for parliamentarians on child participation will also be developed.

- **A parliamentary action project in the area of Social Rights** will support parliaments in ratifying and implementing the European Social Charter, as well as in improving national legislation and applying good practices in the fields of social rights.

12. Voluntary contributions from the national parliaments are needed to deliver the above-mentioned outputs and outcomes.

ii. **Activities included in Joint Council of Europe - EU Programmes and Country Specific Action Plans**

13. The Parliamentary Assembly secretariat participates, together with colleagues from other sectors of the Organisation, in the identification of project areas and actions for regional and Country Specific Action Plans. In 2020, a new three-years phase started for most of the Joint Council of Europe – EU Programmes programmes. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these activities had to be postponed or closed, while some of them took place online.

14. While the Assembly was previously involved in the Council of Europe Action Plans in Ukraine (2018-2020) and Georgia (2016-2019), as well as in the Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (2019-2020), at present its activities are limited to Morocco and are carried out in the framework of the *Joint Programme with Morocco (2020-2023) – Strengthening democratic reforms in Morocco: the key role of the Parliament*.

15. The Assembly action is included in component 2 of the programme: “*Support for the development of the role of Parliament in the consolidation of democracy in Morocco with a view to greater participation of civil society and citizens*”. In this framework, the Assembly’s project of 36 months (PMM 2361) started in December 2020 and ends in September 2023. A total budget of €1,575,000 has been allotted for the Assembly activities.

16. The project has been prepared in accordance with the relevant resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly; it is closely related to the new objectives and specific needs of Morocco, as defined in the Neighbourhood Partnership 2021-2023 between the Council of Europe and Morocco, emphasising the need for capacity building for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff of the Parliament of Morocco.

17. Its main objective is to provide members of the Parliament of Morocco and their staff with the necessary tools to strengthen the role of the Parliament of Morocco as the guarantor of parliamentary democracy. To achieve this, the project notably supports parliamentary action to implement the organic laws provided for in the 2011 Constitution, to control the executive power, and to conduct dialogue with civil society and local authorities. At the same time, it aims at developing parliamentary cooperation with the Parliaments of neighbouring countries and the member States of the Council of Europe on key subjects of common interest, in particular the creation of a common legal space between Morocco and Europe.

18. Planned activities are specifically aiming at:

- Reinforcing the role of the Parliament in Morocco's democratic system, through the strengthening of mechanisms for the control of the executive and for parliamentary consultation with civil society;
- improving the efficiency and quality of actions of the two chambers of the Parliament of Morocco, in terms of monitoring and evaluation of the legislative cycle;
- reinforcing the existing mechanisms for the submission and treatment of petitions and legislative motions to the Moroccan Parliament;
- supporting the opening up of Parliament to citizens, civil society and other partners in order to effectively promote parliamentary democracy in Morocco;
- supporting Moroccan parliamentary diplomacy, through the participation of Moroccan parliamentarians in interparliamentary activities on subjects of common interest at regional and international level, in particular with neighbouring countries and Council of Europe member States.

19. This project is well under way, and the most recent activities included the following events: “International parliamentary Conference on Women in Politics: How to progress towards equality?”, held on 13 July 2021, in Rabat; a training seminar for the staff of the parliament on the evaluation of public policies “Data collection, a myth or a reality?“, held on 27-28 October 2021, in Rabat. Activities planned for 2022 appear in Appendix 1. Most of them focus on motions and petitions, as well as on data collection and management.

IV. The way forward

20. Building upon past and current successful co-operation initiatives and projects, it is the intention of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly to **diversify the geographic scope** of the Assembly's cooperation activities in the years to come and to further **enhance the parliamentary dimension** to the Organisation's cooperation work.

Appendix I

I. Thematic overview of activities to be organised in 2022 by PPSD Secretariat with the contribution of the Secretariats of the following Committees:

COMMITTEE ¹	ACTIVITY	TENTATIVE DATE	TENTATIVE VENUE	SOURCE OF FUNDING
AS/POL				
I.	Implementation of the partnership for democracy with the Parliament of Morocco			
1.	<i>Two Parliamentary Conferences on the evaluation of a public policy selected by each Chamber of Parliament for the annual evaluation exercise</i>	1 st half	Rabat	JP Moroccoⁱ
2.	<i>Parliamentary Conference on the system of motions and petitions, to be organised in co-operation with civil society</i>	2 nd half	Rabat	JP Morocco
3.	<i>International Parliamentary Conference on the creation of an international parliamentary network on motions and petitions</i>	1 st half	Strasbourg	JP Morocco
4.	<i>Parliamentary workshops on the opening of Parliament and on the development of its visitor's service</i>	All year	Rabat	JP Morocco
5.	<i>Parliamentary Conference on the reinforcement of parliamentary democracy</i>	1 st half	Rabat	JP Morocco
6.	<i>Series of training Seminars for the staff of the Moroccan Parliament (both Chambers) on data collection and management, creation of a specific database related to the evaluation of public policies</i>	All year	Rabat/ Strasbourg	JP Morocco
7.	<i>Development of a parliamentary digital platform for the submission of motions and petitions</i>	All year	Rabat	JP Morocco
8.	<i>Development of an enhanced website for the House of Councillors</i>	All year	Rabat	JP Morocco
II.	Regional activities with the Southern Mediterranean countries			
1.	<i>"Parliamentary Conference on Partnership for Democracy: achievements and challenges", for the Parliaments of Morocco, Jordan and the Palestinian National Council</i>	1 st half	Rabat/Nicosia	OB²
AS/JUR				
I.	National Parliaments as guarantors of Human Rights in Europe			
1.	<i>Parliamentary Seminar for the Parliament of Georgia on the role of Parliament in implementing the ECHR standards and ECtHR judgments (dissemination of the Georgian version of the Handbook)</i>	1 st half	Tbilisi	AP Georgia / OB
2.	<i>Multilateral Parliamentary Conference for selected member States (dissemination of appropriate versions of the Handbook)</i>	2 nd half	Strasbourg	OB
II.	Capacity building Seminar on the European Convention on Human Rights for the staff of national parliaments of member states			
1. + 2.	<i>2 multilateral seminars for staff of national parliaments of selected member States</i>	1 st and 2 nd half	Strasbourg	OB
III.	The role of parliaments in the implementation of CPT (Committee for the prevention of torture) standards and recommendations			

¹ The activity falls within the terms of reference of the Committee(s) indicated below

² OB – PACE Operational Budget (Cooperation activities) - (subject to availability of financial resources)

1.	Multilateral seminar for MPs of member States	2 nd half	TBC	OB
2.	Multilateral Seminar for staff of national parliaments of member States	2 nd half	Strasbourg	OB

ELECTIONS OBSERVATION DIVISION (EOD)				
I.	Developing the parliamentary dimension of cooperation in electoral matters			
1.	Parliamentary Seminar on democratic elections and on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes for MPs of selected member States	September	Bern	OB

PACE Information Seminars for the Secretaries of national delegations				
1.	One day information seminar (thematic to be confirmed)	June	Strasbourg	OB
2.	Half day information seminar	December	Paris	OB

II. Activities to be carried out by PACE Committees and their Parliamentary Networks in 2022:

COMMITTEE	ACTIVITY	TENTATIVE DATE	TENTATIVE VENUE	SOURCE OF FUNDING
AS/SOC				
I.	Parliaments and social rights			
1.	Parliamentary seminar on the European Social Charter	September 2022	KUDO	OB/VCⁱⁱ
2.	Meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize during the meeting of the Prize Association in Strasbourg; promotion of the Europe Prize at seminars organised by towns or local authority associations, organisation of thematic stands during PACE and Congress sessions and development of promotional materials.	January-December 2022	TBC	
II.	Parliaments, public health and sustainable development			
1.	Activities of The Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment (e.g., launch; 4 meetings; hearings; manual for parliamentarians)	January-December 2022	TBC	
2.	"Pink October"- breast cancer awareness-raising activities	October 2022	TBC	
3.	Hearing on issues linked to the Covid-19 pandemic	TBC	TBC	
III.	Parliaments and children's rights			
1.	Participation of children in the Committee's work (e.g., written consultations, participation in hearings, in discussion groups and in parliamentary networks)	January-December 2022	KUDO / Strasbourg	OB/VC
2.	Promotion of the Lanzarote Convention and of parliamentary action against child sexual abuse in general, including the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	18/11/22	online	

3.	<i>Wilton Park conference</i>	TBC	TBC	
4.	<i>Production et dissemination of a video "Playing field" to raise public awareness of sexual violence towards children in the world of sport</i>	18/11/22	online	
AS/EGA				
I.	Violence against women – Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence			
1. + 2.	<i>2 Network meetings during the part sessions (participation of experts) in Strasbourg</i>	2022	Strasbourg / hybride	OB / VC
3.	<i>Parliamentary conference on violence against women and promotion of the Istanbul Convention and other instruments and initiatives aimed at preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence</i>	2022	TBC	VC
4.	<i>Peer-to-peer exchange including parliamentary representatives from countries which have good experience with the monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in countries which have recently ratified it</i>	2022	TBC	VC
II.	Parliamentarians against racism and intolerance – Activities of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance			
1. + 2.	<i>2 Alliance meetings during the part sessions (participation experts) in Strasbourg and publication of visibility/information material</i>	2022	Strasbourg	OB / VC
3.	<i>Conference aimed at parliamentarians, government officials, NGOs, media representatives, experts and academics to discuss racism, hatred and intolerance, legal instruments, standards and best practices to address them and raise awareness on these issues</i>	2022	TBC	VC
4.	<i>Capacity building workshop on standards against racism, hatred and intolerance at the national and European level</i>	2022	TBC	VC

ⁱ **JP Morocco** – Joint Country-specific programme for Morocco (2020-2023), financed by the EU and the CoE and implemented by the CoE, Component 2: "Support for the development of the role of Parliament in the consolidation of democracy in Morocco with a view to a greater participation of civil society and citizens"

ⁱⁱ **VC** – Voluntary contributions of Member States to PACE projects – (subject to the availability of funds)