



**AS/Per (2022) CB 02**

25 November 2022

## To the members of the Standing Committee

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland on 25 November 2022

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 25 November 2022 in Reykjavik, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

- heard the welcome address by Mr Birgir Ármannsson, Speaker of Alþingi – Parliament of Iceland;
- heard the address by Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister and Minister for Equality;
- held an exchange of views with Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Committee of Ministers;
- heard the address by Ms Ragnhildur Arnljótsdóttir, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Council of Europe, Dr María Rún Bjarnadóttir, Lawyer at the National Commissioner of Police and member of GREVIO, and Mr Ævar Pálmi Pálmason, Head of sexual offences investigative division, within the framework of the event on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on “Digital violence against women”;
- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Greece, Portugal and Sweden;
- approved changes in the composition of Assembly committees;
- took note of the draft agenda of the first part-session of the Assembly (23-27 January 2023);
- ratified the references proposed by the Bureau (see Appendix 1);
- adopted a declaration on the #RoadToReykjavik: towards a 4<sup>th</sup> Summit which meets Europeans’ expectations (see Appendix 2);
- held a current affairs debate on “Escalation in the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine”;
- took note of the reports of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the observation of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 October 2022) and of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (2 October 2022);
- adopted the following texts on behalf of the Assembly:

**Resolution 2469 (2022)**

**Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan**

**Resolution 2470 (2022)**

**Protecting the pillars of democracy during health crises**

**Resolution 2471 (2022)**

**The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions for civil society space and activities**

**Recommendation 2241 (2022)**

**The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions for civil society space and activities**

<b>Resolution 2472 (2022)</b>	<b>The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on prison population in Europe</b>
<b>Recommendation 2242 (2022)</b>	<b>The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on prison population in Europe</b>
<b>Resolution 2473 (2022)</b>	<b>Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as a cornerstone of the European political architecture</b>
<b>Resolution 2474 (2022)</b>	<b>Securing safe medical supply chains</b>
<b>Recommendation 2243 (2022)</b>	<b>Securing safe medical supply chains</b>

- decided to hold its next meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, on 3 March 2023.

Valérie Clamer

- 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  
Director of Communication  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

## APPENDIX 1

### References to committees

**1. Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures**

[Doc. 15601](#)

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Paul Gavan and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

**2. Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe**

[Doc. 15605](#)

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

**3. Immigration, one of the answers to Europe's demographic aging**

[Doc. 15629](#)

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Migration Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

**4. Protecting human rights and saving lives in the North Sea and the English Channel**

[Doc. 15630](#)

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Fourat Ben Chikha and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *to take into account in the preparation of the report on "Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – a call to clarify their fate" [and in the follow up to Resolution 2462 (2022) on Pushbacks on land and sea: illegal measures of migration management]*.

**5. Sanctions of persons on the "Kara-Murza list"**

[Doc. 15632](#)

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

**6. Europe should stand in solidarity with the Russian and Belarusian anti-war movement**

[Doc. 15633](#)

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kimmo Kiljunen and other members of the Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation"*.

**7. Preventing abuse of the right to veto in the Security Council: a perspective by the member States of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

[Doc. 15628](#)

**Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Dmytro Natalukha and other members of the Assembly**

Consultation of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

## APPENDIX 2

### **Declaration on the #RoadToReykjavik: towards a 4<sup>th</sup> Summit which meets Europeans' expectations**

The Parliamentary Assembly, meeting today in Reykjavik as Standing Committee, welcomes the Committee of Ministers' decision to hold a 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in May 2023.

Faced with the brutality of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, Heads of State and Government should reiterate that rules-based multilateralism is the pivot of the international order, and firmly reject unilateral actions based on the use of force.

They should stand in solidarity with Ukrainians, who are facing unbearable suffering and paying the price of this aggression with their lives. They should give a clear political message in support of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including by backing a comprehensive system to ensure that the Russian Federation be held accountable for violating international law and for the damage it has caused.

At a juncture in its history and with a war raging on its territory, Europe needs to reaffirm, loudly, clearly and at the highest political level, its unabated and unanimous attachment to its most fundamental ambition: to strive for peace and prosperity for all in Europe by protecting and promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The core mission of the Council of Europe must continue to be Europe's compass.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Summit should lay the ground for a forward-looking renewal of the Council of Europe, which should be given greater political and financial means to contribute to realising peace, stability and prosperity for the benefit of all Europeans against the pressure and interference by authoritarian and totalitarian regimes.

A renewed Council of Europe should have the capacity to be a pioneer in human rights protection, setting standards in emerging areas of concern (such as artificial intelligence). It should take leadership in the area of climate change, as a healthy environment is the precondition for durable and sustainable peace and prosperity while continuing its pioneer work in the area of gender equality and in the fight against violence against women. It should be able to address the backsliding of democracy and rising inequalities, reinvigorate citizens' trust in democratic institutions and contribute to the continent's democratic security. By ensuring that execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in all member States is a priority, Council of Europe Heads of State and Government should safeguard and strengthen the Convention system, which has a direct and tangible impact on the lives of all Europeans.

The Council of Europe emerging from the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit should better respond to citizens' expectations in terms of openness, transparency and active engagement. It should also be a cornerstone of the European multilateral architecture, with greater political clout and impact on its member States; greater capacity to project its values and standards beyond its membership; and a deeper strategic partnership with the European Union, also in light of its prospective accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.

On the #RoadToReykjavik, welcoming the climate of co-operation and dialogue with the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General and other Council of Europe bodies, the Assembly stands ready to assume its responsibilities as a statutory organ of the Organisation, providing meaningful input to the Summit and contributing to its success, including through its report on "A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe" to be debated in January 2023.