



## Information documents

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### **Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1454<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies<sup>1</sup> (18 January 2023)**

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<sup>1</sup> This document covers activities of the Assembly between 14 October 2022 and 23 January 2023.

## **I. Main developments between the Assembly's fourth part-session of 2022 and the first part-session of 2023**

### **A. Assembly's response to the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine**

The situation in Ukraine remains at the centre of the attention of the Parliamentary Assembly. The President of the Assembly repeatedly condemned the brutal violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Russian Federation, and the continuous attacks against civilians and vital Ukrainian infrastructures, including the most recent ones in Dnipro. Such strong condemnations, together with calls to ensure that there is no impunity for these crimes, were reiterated in a number of international fora, including the First Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform, which took place in Zagreb on 25 October 2022.

On 25 November, the Assembly's Standing Committee held a current affairs debate on "escalation in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine". The debate was yet another opportunity to express solidarity with Ukraine and to insist on the need to bring those responsible of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice. Members of the Assembly also discussed the role of the Council of Europe in this process, as well as in rebuilding Ukraine.

At committee level, one of the highlights during the reporting period was the hearing on the legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, organised by the Committee on Legal Affairs, on 12 December, in the framework of the report being prepared by Mr Damien Cottier. This event saw the participation of Ukraine's Deputy Justice Minister, Ms Iryna Mudra, who spelled out proposals for a legal mechanism enabling her country to be compensated for the damage caused by the Russian Federation's aggression.

Finally, on 20 October, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, Ms Chatzivasiliou-Tsovilis, hosted a meeting of Secretaries General of parliament. Among the issues on the agenda were the consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine for parliaments and inter-parliamentary co-operation. The specific session was opened by the Secretary General of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Mr Viacheslav Shtuchnyi, who presented the work of the Ukrainian Parliament in times of war, as well as the support provided by national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies to the Verkhovna Rada since the beginning of the aggression.

During the 2023 first part-session, subject to a final decision being taken at the opening of the first plenary sitting, the Assembly is due to hold a debate under urgent procedure on "Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine", with the participation of Ms Oleksandra Matviichuk, Head of the Center for Civil Liberties, 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

### **B. Assembly's reflection about a 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe**

Dialogue and cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly, the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe intensified during the past few months, and in particular in the aftermath of the Committee of Ministers' formal decision, to hold 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government during the Icelandic Presidency, in Reykjavik, on 16-17 May 2023.

On 24 November, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe met in Reykjavik and held an exchange of views with Ms Ambassador Ragnhildur Arnljótsdóttir, Chair of the GT-SOM4 - 4th Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government.

On 25 November, the Assembly's Standing Committee – also meeting in Reykjavik – unanimously adopted a [Declaration](#) (Appendix 1) "On the #RoadToReykjavik: towards a 4th Summit which meets Europeans' expectations". In adopting this text, Assembly members stressed that 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. The 4th Summit, they added, 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. They also emphasised that a renewed Council of Europe should have the capacity to be a pioneer in human rights protection and in setting standards in emerging areas of concern, such as artificial intelligence. In their view, the Organisation should also 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 pioneering work in the area of gender equality and in combating violence against women.

On 9 December 2022, the Bureau of the Assembly took note of the intention of the President of the Assembly to convene a meeting of the Standing Committee in Reykjavik, on 15 May 2023, on the eve of the Summit.

On 13 December 2022, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy unanimously adopted a report on “The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges” (Ms Fiona O’Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE) containing a [draft recommendation](#). The draft recommendation asks European leaders, at the highest political level, to reaffirm their unity around common values and their unfaltering commitment to multilateralism based on international law. In the Committee’s view, while expressing firm support for Ukraine and ensuring accountability of the Russian Federation for its actions, the Summit should also provide a new strategic vision and a forward-looking agenda for the Council of Europe, putting people’s interests, concerns, and expectations back to the forefront of the mission of the Organisation.

A Joint Committee aimed at discussing preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit will take place on Thursday, 26 January 2023.

## **II. Meetings of the Bureau (24 November and 9 December 2022)**

On 24 November, in Reykjavik, the **Bureau of the Assembly**:

- **Communications:** held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and 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** (Reykjavik, 25 November 2022):
  - Took note of the request to hold a current affairs debate on “Escalation in the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine”, tabled by the leaders of all political groups, and decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate, and to appoint Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE) as first speaker in the debate;
  - Took note of the updated draft agenda (Appendix 2) of the Standing Committee;
  - Considered a draft Declaration on the 4th Summit with a view for its adoption by the Standing Committee.
- **First part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 23-27 January):** drew up the preliminary draft agenda;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the following references and transmissions, subject to the ratification by the Standing Committee:

### **A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES**

- [Doc. 15601](#), Motion for a resolution, Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*
- [Doc. 15605](#), Motion for a resolution, Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*
- [Doc. 15629](#), Motion for a resolution, Immigration, one of the answers to Europe’s demographic aging: reference to the Committee on Migration Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*
- [Doc. 15630](#), Motion for a resolution, Protecting human rights and saving lives in the North Sea and the English Channel: 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]
- [Doc. 15632](#), Motion for a resolution, Sanctions of persons on the “Kara-Murza list”: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*
- [Doc. 15633](#), Motion for a resolution, Europe should stand in solidarity with the Russian and Belarusian anti-war movement: 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”*

- [Doc. 15628](#), Motion for a resolution, 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: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for consultation*

## B. REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF REFERENCE

- [Doc. 15014](#), Motion for a resolution, Legal aspects of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights (Reference 4488 of 27 January 2020 – validity : 27 January 2023): extension until 27 January 2024

- **Election observation:**

Bosnia and Herzegovina, General elections (2 October 2022): approved the report by the observation mission;

Bulgaria, early parliamentary elections (2 October 2022): approved the report by the observation mission;

- **Issues raised by Committees:**

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: took note of the letter by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, agreed to terminate the mandate of General Rapporteur for the protection of whistleblowers and to revise the terms of reference of the mandate of the General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders;

- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg or Paris:** authorised the Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media to meet in Olympia, Greece, on 22 February 2023.

On 9 December, in Paris, the **Bureau of the Assembly**:

- **Communications:** held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- **Follow-up to the Standing Committee (Reykjavik, 25 November 2022):** approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly; took note of the President's intention to convene a meeting of the Standing Committee, in Reykjavik, on 15 May 2023 (subject to the availability of funds);

- **First part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 23-27 January):** drew up the draft agenda;

- **Rules on Access to and movement and security within the Council of Europe during sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly:** held an exchange of views on the basis of proposals by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to address a letter to all Chairpersons of delegations reminding members of the existing Rules, in particular of the fact that the parliamentarians shall assume full responsibility for the movements, behaviour and for the departure from the building of the persons invited by them;

- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the following references and transmissions, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the Progress report:

## A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

– [Doc. 15636](#), Motion for a resolution, Risks and opportunities of the Metaverse: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

– [Doc. 15638](#), Motion for a resolution, Recognising Russian warmonger political parties as groups and entities involved in terrorist acts that are subject to institutional sanctions: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to take into account in the preparation of the report on "Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to take into account in the preparation of the report on "Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"*

– [Doc. 15639](#), Motion for a resolution, Abusive practices on depriving children from their family environment: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for consultation*

- [Doc. 15642](#), Motion for a resolution, Protecting women human rights defenders and people who defend women's rights in Europe: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*
- [Doc. 15646](#), Motion for a resolution, Growth in number of political prisoners in Azerbaijan: reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to take into account in the preparation of the report on "the Honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan"* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to take into account in the preparation of the report on "Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan"*
- Bureau decision: Escalation in the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to take into account in the preparation of the report on "Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to take into account in the preparation of the report on "Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"*
- **Election observation:** took note of the schedule of the elections in 2023;
- **Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the 2023 financial year:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Parliamentary co-operation activities:** took note of the work plan for 2023;
- **2023 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the calendar of the 2023 edition of the Prize;
- **Apportionment of the allocation to political groups for 2023:** approved the proposals contained in the document;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg or Paris:**
  - authorised the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment to meet in Marrakech and Ben Guérir, Morocco, on 16-18 March 2023;
  - authorised the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to meet in Limassol, Cyprus, on 22-23 May 2023.

### III. Standing Committee (25 November 2022)

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 25 November 2022 in Reykjavik:

- 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 of Iceland;
- held an exchange of views with Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland 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";
- adopted a declaration on the #RoadToReykjavik: towards a 4<sup>th</sup> Summit which meets Europeans' expectations;
- held a current affairs debate on "Escalation in the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine";
- 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**

#### **IV. Prizes**

- On 18 November 2022, Mr Roberto Rampi (Italy, SOC), Representative of the Committee for the **Museum Prize of the Council of Europe**, participated in the meeting of the *European Museum Forum Jury* in Portimão, Portugal.
- On 3 December 2022, Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the **Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize**, participated online in the Bureau meeting of the Association of Towns awarded the Europe Prize.
- On 5 December 2022 the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media** decided to award the 2023 Council of Europe Museum Prize to “The Workers Museum” in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- On 16 January 2023, the Parliamentary Assembly, in partnership with the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation, issued a call for nominations for the 2023 **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**.

#### **V. Activities of committees and networks, and election observation missions**

- On 14 November 2022, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**:
  - . held a hearing on *Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights* in the context of a report prepared by Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EC/DA), with the participation of Mr Bruno Min, Legal Director (UK & International), Fair Trials, London, United Kingdom, and Mr Vytis Jurkonis, Project Director, Freedom House, Vilnius, Lithuania;
  - . held a hearing on *The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 11<sup>th</sup> report* in the context of a report prepared by Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, (Cyprus, SOC) with the participation of Ms Clare Ovey, Head of the Department for the Execution of Judgments, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France; and Professor Dr. Başak Çalı, Professor of International Law, Co-director of the Centre for Fundamental Rights, Hertie School, Berlin’s University of Governance, Germany.
- On 21 November 2022, in Vilnius, the **Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society** of the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**:
  - . held a joint hearing on *Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society* in the context of a report prepared by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) and on *Guaranteeing media freedom and the safety of journalists: an obligation of member States* in the context of a report prepared by Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), with the participation of Ms Meaghan Fitzgerald, Head of Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Election Department, OSCE; Mr Ricardo Gutierrez, General Secretary, European Federation of Journalists; Ms Krisztina Rozgonyi, Senior Scientist, Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies (CMC), Austrian Academy of Sciences; and Mr Boris Bergant, Consultant, European Broadcasting Union;
  - . held an exchange of views on *Ongoing activities, priorities, and emerging issues in the field of media and information society* with the participation of Mr Patrick Penninckx, Head of Department, Information Society, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe.
- On 22 November 2022, in Vilnius, the **Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society** of the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media** attended the conference on *Public Service Media for Democracy*, co-organised by the Council of Europe and the European Broadcasting Union in partnership with the Lithuanian National Radio and Television in the Seimas.
- On 1 December 2022, in Paris, the **No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**:
  - . held a hearing on *Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 on combating hate speech: measures to support the victims – the role of parliamentarians*, with the participation of Mr Menno Ettema,

Programme Manager, No Hate Speech and Cooperation Unit, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe; and Ms Līva Vikmane, EU Policy and Advocacy Officer, HateAid gGmbH.

- On 2 December 2022, in Paris, the **Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment:**
  - . held an exchange of views on *Climate Crisis and the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT)*, with the participation of Mr Guy Lentz, Secretary General of the Energy Charter Treaty; Ms Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe, France); and Ms Catherine Banet, Head of the Energy & Resources Law Department, Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, University of Oslo, Norway;
  - . held an exchange of views on *The right to a healthy environment and the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Council of Europe*.
- On 2 December 2022, in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:**
  - . held a public hearing on *Deliberate germline editing in human beings*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), with the participation of Ms Anne Forus, Vice-Chairperson of the International Bioethics Committee, UNESCO, and Senior Advisor, Department of Health Legislation and Biotechnology, Norwegian Directorate of Health; and Ms Laurence Lwoff, Head of Human Rights and Biomedicine Division, Human Rights Directorate, Council of Europe.
- On 5 December 2022, in Paris, the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:**
  - . held an exchange of views on *The role of sites of remembrance: places of commemoration and education for democratic citizenship*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Roberto Rampi, (Italy, SOC), with the participation of Ms Luisa de Bivar Black, consultant and expert in history teaching, Portugal;
  - . held a hearing on *Promoting online education and research across national borders* in the context of a report prepared by Lord Alexander Dundee (United Kingdom, EC/DA) with the participation of Mr Christian M. Stracke, Co-ordinator for Virtual Collaboration at the German University of Excellence in Bonn; Mr Stephan Vincent-Lancrin, Senior Analyst (digital education) and Deputy Head of the Innovation and Measuring Progress Division, Education Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris; and Mr Mark West, Project Officer, Future of Learning and Innovation Team, UNESCO, Paris;
  - . held a hearing on *Council of Europe Museum Prize* with the participation of Mr Mathieu Viau-Courville, Luxembourg, member of the Jury for the Museum Prize;
  - . held an exchange of views on *Cultural heritage and climate change*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Alberto Ribolla (Italy, EC/DA), with the participation of Mr Danilo Forleo, Head of preventive conservation at the National Museum of the Palaces of Versailles and Trianon, France.
- On 6 December 2022, in Paris, the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:**
  - . held a joint hearing on *Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), and on *Guaranteeing media freedom and the safety of journalists: an obligation of member States*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), with the participation of Ms Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe; Mr Peter Noorlander, Consultancy and advice on human rights and media law and policy; and Mr Ricardo Gutierrez, General Secretary, European Federation of Journalists.
- On 7 December 2022, in Paris, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:**
  - . in the context of a report on *Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved*, prepared by Mr Domagoj Hajduković (Croatia, SOC), heard a recorded presentation by Mr Sølve Sætre, Head of section for diversity and inclusion, City of Bergen, Norway, on the asylum policy implementation at local level, in Bergen, and had a video projection about the “Straight to work” programme of integration of refugees carried out in the municipality of Øygarden;
  - . held an exchange of views on *Social inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons through sport*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Nigar Arpadarai (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), with the participation of Ms Paule Ignatio, Diplomatic Adviser, Ministry of Sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, France; and Ms Nagin Ravand, Founder and Director, GLOBAL, Denmark;

. held an exchange of views on *The humanitarian crisis emerging for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Birgir Thórarinnsson (Iceland, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Reshad Jalali, Senior Policy Officer at European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE);

. held an exchange of views on *European solidarity in the context of asylum and international protection*, in the context of a report prepared by Lord Alexander Dundee (United Kingdom, EC/DA), with the participation of Mr Bernd Vöhringer (Germany, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Mayor of Sindelfingen, Germany;

. held an exchange of views on *Precarious and irregular work situations of migrant seasonal workers and domestic migrant workers*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Diana Stoica (Romania, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Elena Stancu, independent journalist, Romania;

. held an exchange of views on *Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – a call to clarify their fate*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Julian Pahlke (Germany, SOC), with the participation of Ms Kirsty MacDonald, Protection Coordination, ICRC France.

➤ On 12 December 2022, in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:**

. held a hearing on *Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Krzysztof Brejza, Member of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland accompanied by his lawyer, Ms Dorota Brejza, Poland; Ms Diana Riba, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-president of the PEGA committee of the European Parliament (Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware), Spain; and Mr Thanasis Koukakis, journalist, Greece;

. held an exchange of views on *UK reform of its human rights legislation: consequences for domestic and European Human Rights protection*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Kamal Jafarov, (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), with the participation of the following members of the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the parliament of the United Kingdom: Ms Joanna Cherry KC MP (Scottish National Party); Mr David Simmonds MP (Conservative Party); Ms Bel Ribeiro Addy MP (Labour Party); Lord Dubs (Labour Party); Lord Henley (Conservative Party); and Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democratic Party);

. held a hearing on *Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, in the context of a report prepared Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE), with the participation of Ms Iryna Mudra, Deputy Minister of Justice, Ukraine; and Professor Burkhard Hess, Director of the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law.

➤ On 13 December 2022, in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:**

. held a hearing on *The situation of political prisoners in Belarus*, in the context of a report "Call for a national political reform process in Belarus" prepared by Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC), with the participation of Ms Tatsiana Khomich, human rights activist, sister of Ms Maria Kalesnikava, laureate of the 2021 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize;

. held a hearing on the *Establishment of a "youth partner" status with the Parliamentary Assembly*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Anastasios Chatzivasileiou (Greece, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Spyros Papadatos, Chairperson of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) of the Council of Europe; and Mr Roger Padreny, Member of parliament of Andorra, Member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly network of young parliamentarians.

➤ On 14 December 2022 in Paris, the **Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee):**

. held an exchange of views on *The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by France*, in the context of a report prepared by Ms Yelysaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) and Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE), with the participation of Mr Ugo Bernalicis, Member of the French Parliament, Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry on obstacles to the Independence of the Judiciary (15<sup>th</sup> Legislature);

. held an exchange of views on *Relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and ongoing mediation efforts*, in the context of a monitoring report on Armenia prepared by Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC) and Ms Boriana Åberg (Sweden, EPP/CD), and on Azerbaijan prepared by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger

(United Kingdom, EC/DA) and Ms Lise Christoffersen (Norway, SOC), with the participation of Mr Toivo Kloor, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus; and Mr Brice Roquefeuil, Special Envoy for the South Caucasus, Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership and French Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group.

## **VI. Fact-finding visits in the framework of the preparation of reports**

### **➤ *The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by San Marino***

**Mr Viorel-Riceard Badea** (Romania, EPP/CD) and **Mr Andrej Hunko** (Germany, UEL), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to San Marino, on **24-26 October 2022**. Press statement available [here](#).

### **➤ *Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved***

**Mr Domagoj Hajduković** (Croatia, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Norway, on **10-11 November 2022**.

### **➤ *The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 11<sup>th</sup> report***

**Mr Constantinos Efstathiou** (Cyprus, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Romania, on **15-16 November 2022**.

### **➤ *Taking into consideration the impact of the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic on the mental health of minors and young adults***

**Mr Simon Moutquin** (Belgium, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Norway, on **21-22 November 2022**.

### **➤ *The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 11<sup>th</sup> report***

**Mr Constantinos Efstathiou** (Cyprus, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan, on **22-23 November 2022**.

### **➤ *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye***

**Mr John Howell** (United Kingdom, EC/DA) and **Mr Boriss Cilevičs** (Latvia, SOC), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Türkiye, which included a meeting with Mr Osman Kavala, on **12-13 January 2023**. Press statement available [here](#).

## **VII. Online meetings in the framework of the preparation of reports**

### **➤ *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine***

**Mr Alfred Heer** (Switzerland, ALDE) and **Mr Birgir Thórarinnsson** (Iceland, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, held an online meeting with representatives of the European Solidarity Faction, on **9 November 2022**.

### **➤ *The Istanbul Convention: progress and challenges***

**Ms Zita Gurmai** (Hungary, SOC), rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and non-Discrimination*, and General Rapporteur on violence against women and Coordinator of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, participated by videoconference in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention, on **6 December 2022**.

➤ **Post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro**

**Mr Damien Cottier** (Switzerland, ALDE) and **Mr Nicos Tornaritis** (Cyprus, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*, held an online meeting with the Speaker of the Parliament, Ms Danijela Đurović, on **9 December 2022**.

## **VIII. Seminars and conferences organised by the Assembly**

- **28-29 November 2022, Rome, Italy:** the Assembly organised, in cooperation with the Italian Parliament, a study mission entitled "*Opening the Parliament to Citizens*" for the officials of the Parliament of Morocco, in the framework of the joint programme with the European Union "*Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco*". Press statement available [here](#).
- **5 December 2022, Rabat, Morocco:** the Assembly organised, in cooperation with the Parliament of Morocco, a seminar entitled "*The role of parliamentarians in combating violence against women: towards the signature of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*" for the officials and parliamentarians of the Parliament of Morocco, in the framework of the joint programme with the European Union "*Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco*". Press statement available [here](#).

## **IX. Cooperation with the Venice Commission**

- **Ms Laura Castel** (Spain, UEL), alternate representative of the Monitoring Committee to the Council for Democratic Elections, participated in the 74<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council for Democratic elections, in Venice, on **20 October 2022**.
- **Mr Givi Mikanadze** (Georgia, SOC), alternate representative of the Committee on Legal Affairs to the Council for Democratic Elections, participated in the 75<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Democratic Elections, in Venice, on **15 December 2022**.
- The **President of the Assembly, Mr Tiny Kox**, addressed the Plenary of the Venice Commission and held an exchange of views with its members, on **16 December 2022**.
- **On 17 December 2022, a joint meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the Venice Commission and the Assembly's Presidential Committee** took place. The discussion focused on two specific topics: Setting up independent institutions; and Ensuring an inclusive legislative process in the context of the urgent procedures. It specifically looked at the appointments, elections and functioning of ombudspersons, constitutional and supreme courts as well as the importance of ensuring the rights of parliamentary opposition to be engaged in these processes. Dialogue was also held on how to assure effective follow-up to the Venice Commission's opinions at national level and how the Assembly can usefully contribute to this process.

## **X. External relations**

### **- Relations with the European Parliament and other European Union institutions**

- On 8 December 2022, in Brussels, Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson of the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**, participated by videoconference in an interparliamentary committee meeting on Gender Mainstreaming organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM).
- On 13 December 2022, in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** held an exchange of views on *Relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union*, with the participation of Mr Loránt Vincze (Romania, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament and Rapporteur on Relations between the European Union and the Council of Europe for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

## - Relations with other international partners

- On 28-30 November 2022, on the occasion of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the **Sub-Committee on External Relations** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy held meetings with a number of high-level UN officials and representatives of Council of Europe member States to the United Nations in New York, United States of America. Press statement available [here](#).
- Ms Kirsty MacDonald, Regional Protection Coordinator for Europe, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) France, addressed the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**, on 7 December 2022, in Paris, during an exchange of views on *Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – a call to clarify their fate*, in the context of a report prepared by Mr Julian Pahlke (Germany, SOC).
- Ms Larisa Lara, Transnational Communities and Digital Communications Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM), addressed the **Sub-Committee on Diasporas and Integration (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons)** in Paris, on 7 December 2022, and presented the IOM Diaspora mapping toolkit.

## XI. List of meetings of the committees, the Bureau and the Presidential Committee

**14 November 2022** – *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*

**24 November 2022** – *Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe*

**24 November 2022** – *Presidential Committee*

**24 November 2022** – *Bureau of the Assembly*

**25 November 2022** – *Standing Committee*

**28 – 30 November 2022** – *Sub-Committee on External Relations, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*

**1 December 2022**– *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*

**2 December 2022** – *Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment*

**2 December 2022** – *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*

**5 – 6 December 2022** - *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*

**7 December 2022** – *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*

**8 December 2022** – *Presidential Committee*

**9 December 2022** – *Bureau of the Assembly*

**12 December 2022**– *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*

**13 December 2022** – *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*

**14 December 2022** – *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*

**17 December 2022** – *Presidential Committee with the enlarged Bureau of the Venice Commission*

**13 January 2022** – *Committee on the election of judges to the European Court of human Rights*

## Appendix 1 - Declaration “On the #RoadToReykjavik: towards a 4th Summit which meets Europeans’ expectations”



AS/Per (2022) 08  
25 November 2022

### Standing Committee

#### Declaration

### On the #RoadToReykjavik: towards a 4<sup>th</sup> Summit which meets Europeans’ expectations

#### adopted by the Standing Committee at its meeting on 25 November 2022

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.

AS/Per (2022) OJ 03 rev  
24 November 2022

## Standing Committee

### Revised draft agenda<sup>2</sup>

of the meeting to be held

**in Reykjavik on Friday 25 November 2022 from 09:30 to 12:30 and from 14:00 to 17:00**

*(Venue: Harpa conference centre, Silfurberg meeting room, Austurbakki 2, Reykjavik, Iceland)*

1. **Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly**
2. **Welcome address by Mr Birgir Ármannsson, Speaker of Alþingi – Parliament of Iceland**
3. **From 11:30 to 12:30**

Event on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

*Digital violence against women*

**Address by:**

- “...”
- **Dr María Rún Bjarnadóttir, Lawyer at the National Commissioner of Police and member of GREVIO**
- **Mr Ævar Pálmi Pálmason, Head of sexual offences investigative division**

4. **At 14:00**  
**Address by Ms Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Committee of Ministers, followed by an exchange of views**

CM/Inf (2022) 22

CM/Inf (2022) 23

**This document is the convocation to the meeting  
for the members of the Standing Committee**

*Copy for information to the Secretaries of delegations and political groups*

**Members who wish to present amendments  
are invited to table them in writing with the Table Office as follows:**

**Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 10:00 at the latest**

<sup>2</sup> Updated to reflect modifications proposed by the Presidential Committee to the Bureau of the Assembly.

5. **Examination of new credentials** Doc. 15657
6. **Modifications in the composition of committees** Commissions (2022) 08  
Commissions (2022) 08 Add.
7. **Request for a current affairs debate (under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure)**  
Escalation in the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine
8. **Agenda** AS/Per (2022) OJ 03 rev  
Adoption of the revised draft agenda
9. **First part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (23-27 January 2023)** AS/Bur (2022) 51  
Consideration of the draft agenda
10. **References to committees** AS/Per (2022) 07  
Consideration of the proposals submitted by the Bureau of the Assembly
11. **Draft declaration on the #RoadToReykjavik: towards a 4<sup>th</sup> Summit which meets Europeans' expectations** AS/Per (2022) 08  
*Submitted by the President of the Assembly*  
Adoption of a declaration
12. **Current affairs debate (under Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure)**  
Escalation in the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine
13. **Observation of elections**
- a. Observation of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(2 October 2022) Doc. 15655  
*Chairperson of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:*  
*Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC)*  
Debate
- b. Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (2 October 2022) Doc. 15656  
*Chairperson of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:*  
*Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE)*  
Debate
14. **Political Affairs and Democracy**
- a. Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as a cornerstone of the European political architecture Doc. 15651  
*Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:*  
*Ms Laima Liucija Andrikienė (Lithuania, EPP/CD)*

Debate  
Vote on a draft resolution

- b. Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:  
Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL)*

Doc. 15649

Debate  
Vote on a draft resolution

- c. Protecting the pillars of democracy during health crises

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:  
Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC)*

Doc. 15650

Debate  
Vote on a draft resolution

## **15. Legal Affairs and Human Rights**

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

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:  
Ms Margreet De Boer (Netherlands, SOC)*

Doc. 15654

Debate  
Vote on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation

- b. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on prison population in Europe

Doc. 15652

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:  
Mr Givi Mikanadze (Georgia, SOC)*

Debate  
Vote on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation

## **16. Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

Securing safe medical supply chains

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:  
Ms Jennifer De Temmerman (France, ALDE)*

Doc. 15653

Debate  
Vote on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation

## **17. Other business**

## **18. Next meeting**

The Hague (Netherlands), 3 March 2023