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Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

The Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment

Terms of reference

In accordance with Resolution 2399 (2021) on “the climate crisis and the rule of law”, the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe shall be constituted in the January 2022 part-session of the Assembly under the auspices of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

The terms of reference of the network were adopted by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at its meeting on 1 December 2021 for transmission to the Bureau of the Assembly.

Aim of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians

1. In accordance with Resolution 2399 (2021) on “the climate crisis and the rule of law”, it is the task of the Network “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.”

Composition of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians

2. The Network shall be composed of:

2.1. In respect of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe: one member of parliament for each unicameral parliament, and one member of each Chamber for bicameral parliaments, appointed by the national parliament or chamber respectively.

2.2. In respect of the parliaments with Observer or Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: one member of parliament for each unicameral parliament, and one member of each Chamber for bicameral parliaments, appointed by the national parliament or chamber respectively.

2.3. One member each appointed by the European Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie.

2.4. One member each appointed by the following Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly:

- Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
- Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
- Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
- Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media
- Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

2.5. One associate member appointed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

3. The members of the Bureau of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the chairpersons of political groups and the immediate past President of the Assembly, shall be *ex officio* members of the Network.

Working methods of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians

4. In terms of the application of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Network shall be assimilated to a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. All members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development shall be entitled to attend the Network's meetings.

5. The working languages of the Network shall be English and French.

6. The Network shall hold its first meeting during the January 2022 part-session of the Assembly, with the immediate past President of the Assembly in the Chair and shall elect its Bureau at its second meeting during the April part-session of the Assembly.

7. In fulfilling its task set out in paragraph 1 of these terms of reference, the Network shall be inspired by international and European treaties, declarations, and reports (including the Assembly's #EnvironmentRightNow initiative), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly, in particular those related to the environment adopted during the Autumn 2021 part-session.

8. The Network may co-operate with parliamentarians and national parliaments outside of Europe, as well as parliamentary networks and regional and international parliamentary assemblies.

9. The Network shall endeavour to limit its environmental impact so as to enhance its sustainability.