



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2021) 09

7 September 2021

## To the Members of the Assembly

### Synopsis of the meeting held in a hybrid format on 6 September 2021

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday, 6 September 2021 in a hybrid format, with Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Fourth part-session of 2021 (Strasbourg, 27-30 September):**
  - drew up the draft agenda;
  - *Requests for debates under urgent procedure:* took note of the following requests to hold debates on:
    - *Draft Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence*, tabled by the five political groups, and decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and to refer the matter to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
    - *The situation in Afghanistan: consequences for Europe and the region*, tabled by the five political groups;
    - *Increased migration pressure on the borders of Latvia, Lithuania and Poland with Belarus*, tabled by Mr Arkadiusz Mularczyk and 23 members of the Assembly;
  - *Request for a current affairs debate:* took note of the request to hold a debate on *The Western Balkans between democratic challenges and European aspirations: what role for the Council of Europe?*, tabled by the five political groups;
  - accepted the proposal by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to invite, to a forthcoming part-session, Ms Helena Dalli, European Commissioner for Equality, to address the Assembly in the context of the plenary debate on *Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe*;

- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Election observation:**
  - *Armenia: early parliamentary elections (20 June 2021):* approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
  - *Republic of Moldova: early parliamentary elections (11 July 2021):* approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
  - *Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (11 July 2021):* approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
  - *Morocco: parliamentary elections (8 September 2021):* confirmed its decision taken via written consultation to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 11 members (SOC-3; EPP/CD-3; EC/DA-2; ALDE-2; UEL-1); confirmed the appointment of Mr Alberto Ribolla (Italy EC/DA) as Chairperson and approved the list of members to observe these elections (Appendix 2);
  - *Russian Federation: parliamentary elections (19 September 2021):* considered the assessment of the pre-electoral mission that took place remotely on 2-3 September 2021, and decided, in accordance with Assembly rules, to hold a second *in situ* meeting of the ad hoc committee in the format of an Election Assessment Mission, composed of one member from each political group, as follows: Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) as its Chairperson; Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD); Mr Alberto Ribolla (Italy, EC/DA); Mr Jacques Maire (France, ALDE); Mr George Katrougalos (Greece, UEL);
  - *Bulgaria: presidential election (November 2021 - tbc):* subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe this election and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-7 ; EPP/CD-6 ; EC/DA-3 ; ALDE-3 ; UEL-1) as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee; decided to maintain, to the extent possible, the same list of members and Chairperson of the ad hoc committee, Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE), as for previous observations of elections in Bulgaria in 2021;
  - *Schedule of the elections:* took note of the updated schedule of the elections;
- **2021 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:**
  - observed a minute of silence in memory of Ms Marie-Lousie Bemelmans-Videc, member of the Selection Panel of the Prize and former member of the Parliamentary Assembly;
  - took note of the shortlist made by the Selection Panel at its meeting in Prague on 30-31 August 2021, consisting of (in alphabetical order):
    - Maria Kalesnikava (Belarus)
    - Reporters Sans Frontières
    - Germain Rukuki (Burundi)
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2022:** approved the proposals contained in the document (Appendix 3);
- **Composition of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:** on the basis of a proposal by the SOC group, appointed Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany) as a member;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the sub-committee on Education, Youth and Sport of the committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, to meet in Lisbon on 25 October 2021;

- **Dates and places of next meetings:** decided to hold its meetings as follows:

Friday 24 September 2021, 9.30 am (Strasbourg, hybrid)

Thursday 30 September 2021, 2.30 pm (part-session, hybrid)

Thursday 25 November 2021, 9.30 am (time tbc), Rome

Friday 10 December 2021, 9.30 am, Paris (tbc).

Isild Heurtin

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Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly

Director 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 and transmissions to committees**

[Doc. 15327](#), Motion for a resolution, *Towards Council of Europe seas and oceans strategies against the climate crisis*: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

**Appendix 2**

**AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE OBSERVATION OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN MOROCCO**

*8 September 2021*

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**List of members**

**Chairperson / Président : Mr Alberto RIBOLLA, Italy / Italie, EC/DA / CE/AD**

**Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)**

Ms / Mme Jette CHRISTENSEN, Norway / Norvège  
Mr / M. Christophe LACROIX, Belgique  
Mr / M. Antonio GUTIERREZ, Spain / Espagne

**Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)**

Mr / M. Viorel -Riceard BADEA, Romania / Roumanie  
Mr / M. Raivo TAMM, Estonia / Estonie  
Mr / M. Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland / Pologne

**Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) / Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe (ADLE)**

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse  
Ms / Mme Nicole DURANTON, France

**European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance (EC/DA) / Groupe des conservateurs européens et Alliance démocratique (CE/AD)**

Mr / M. Alberto RIBOLLA, Italy / Italie

**Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)**

Mr / M. Anton GOMEZ-REINO, Spain / Espagne

**Venice Commission / Commission de Venise**

**Secretariat / Secrétariat**

**Appendix 3 – Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2022**

Monday 24 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 28 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 10 March, 3.00 pm, Paris	Bureau (tbc)
Friday 11 March, 9.30 am, Paris	Standing Committee (tbc)
Monday 25 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 29 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 30 May, 3.00 pm, Dublin	Bureau
Tuesday 31 May, 9.00 am, Dublin	Standing Committee (CM Chairmanship)
Monday 20 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 24 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 12 September, 9.00 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 10 October, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 14 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
End of November, Reykjavik	Bureau (tbc)
End of November, Reykjavik	Standing Committee (tbc) (CM Chairmanship)
Friday 9 December, 9.00 am, Paris	Bureau