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Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (24 June – 9 October 2022)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE, Türkiye, Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group

1. Introduction

At its meeting on 24 June 2022, the Bureau appointed me as rapporteur for this report, which covers its activities over the period from the last Bureau meeting of the third part-session of 2022 (Friday 24 June) to the pre-session Bureau meeting of the fourth part-session of 2022 (Monday 10 October).

Chapter 2 presents a list of decisions taken by the Bureau over the reported period which do not require ratification.

Chapter 3 presents a list of decisions taken by the Bureau over the reported period that require ratification at the opening of the fourth part-session of the Assembly.

An addendum to this report will be issued after the Bureau meeting of 10 October, which will include decisions to be ratified by the Assembly at the opening of the 2022 fourth part-session, on 10 October. Another addendum will be issued after the Bureau meeting of 14 October. It will include only the decisions to be ratified by the Assembly on the same day, notably the references and transmissions to committees which will have been approved by the Bureau.

The Bureau will hold its next meeting on Thursday 24 November 2022, at 3 pm, in Reykjavik. The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in Reykjavik, on 25 November 2022.

2. Activities of the Bureau since the last part-session and decisions not requiring ratification by the Assembly

2.1. Fourth part-session of 2022 (Strasbourg, 10-14 October)

On 12 September, the Bureau drew up the draft agenda.

2.1.1. Requests for current affairs debates

On 12 September, the Bureau took note of the requests to hold debates on *Europe half a year after the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine*, tabled by the five political groups, and on *Food security in Europe: grain exports through Ukrainian ports*, tabled by the Turkish delegation. On 19 September, the Monitoring Committee of the Assembly submitted a request to hold a current affairs debate entitled *Military hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan*. The Bureau will consider all three requests at its meeting on 10 October 2022.

2.2. Communications

On 24 June, the Bureau took note of a statement by the President of the Assembly. On 12 September, it 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.

2.3. Assembly contribution to a fourth Council of Europe Summit

On 24 June, the Bureau decided to set up an ad hoc Committee to contribute to the report on *A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe*, being prepared by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, and approved its terms of reference (Appendix 1). On the same day, the ad hoc Committee held an informal exchange of views.

On 12 September, the ad hoc Committee held its first meeting in Paris. After hearing a statement by Mr Evangelos Venizelos, Rapporteur of the High-level Reflection Group on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe; as well as by Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE), rapporteur on *A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe* of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy; the ad hoc Committee held an exchange of views.

It will hold its next meeting on 24 November 2022, in Reykjavik.

2.4. Enhancing intra-institutional interaction between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers: clarifying applicable Assembly guidelines relating to written questions to the Committee of Ministers

On 24 June, the Bureau considered the proposals in the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly, decided to declassify it, agreed to amend the Additional provisions relating to Assembly debates (as approved by the Bureau on 25 March 2002 and 17 December 2007), and decided to seize the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to consider the possibility of making changes to the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly, as appropriate.

2.5. Participation of the delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo[1] in Assembly debates

On 12 September, the Bureau considered the proposals contained in the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly, under the instructions of the President of the Assembly, and decided that, as from the 2022 fourth part-session, the members of the delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo* would have the right to speak in the Plenary, as well as in Standing Committee meetings, without the right to vote; the names of the delegation members should appear in the list of speakers with the indication "Assembly of Kosovo*", with the footnote: "*Following the Bureau decision of 12 September 2022. All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo". The Bureau also decided to declassify the memorandum.

2.6. Election observation

2.6.1. Bosnia and Herzegovina: General elections (2 October 2022)

On 24 June, the Bureau decided to revise the composition of the ad hoc Committee to observe these elections (21 members (SOC-6; EPP/CD-6; EC/DA-4; ALDE-3; UEL-1; NR-1), as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee), took note of the list of members of the ad hoc committee and appointed Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) as its Chairperson.

On 12 September, the Bureau took note of the statement by the pre-electoral mission and approved the final list of members (Appendix 2).

1. All reference to Kosovo whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

2.6.2. Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (2 October 2022)

On 12 September, the Bureau confirmed its decision taken via written consultation to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-6; EPP/CD-6; EC/DA-4; ALDE-3; UEL-1;), as well as the two co-rapporteurs from the Monitoring Committee. It appointed Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE) as Chairperson and approved the list of the ad hoc committee members (Appendix 3).

2.7. References and transmissions to committees

On 24 June, the Bureau considered and approved the reference and transmissions to committees as presented in Doc. 15550 Add. 3, ratified by the Assembly the same day.

2.8. Issues raised by committees

2.8.1. Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

On 24 June, the Bureau took note of the letter by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and approved the terms of reference of a "General Rapporteur on child participation". It also authorised Mr Rik Daems (Belgium, ALDE), Chairperson of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment, to represent the Assembly at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), which will take place in November 2022 in Egypt (subject to the availability of funds).

On 12 September, the Bureau took note of the Child Safeguarding Policy approved unanimously by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

2.8.2. Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

On 24 June, the Bureau took note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the 17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sports.

2.9. 2022 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

On 12 September, the Bureau took note of the shortlist made by the Selection Panel at its meeting in Prague on 6 September 2022, consisting of (in alphabetical order):

– Vladimir Kara-Murza (Russian Federation)

– The Rainbow Coalition/Invalid Campaign for LGBTQIA+ rights (Hungary)

– The Ukraine 5 AM Coalition.

2.10. 2022 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 7-9 November)

On 24 June, the Bureau took note of the list of members of the ad hoc committee and appointed the President of the Assembly as its chairperson.

2.11. Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2023

On 12 September, the Bureau approved the proposals contained in the document in Appendix 4.

2.12. Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg or Paris

On 24 June, the Bureau authorised the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Izmir (Türkiye), on 22-23 September 2022.

On 12 September, the Bureau authorised the sub-committee on Media and Information Society of the committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, to meet in Vilnius on 21-22 November 2022.

2.13. Other business

On 12 September, the Bureau heard a statement by Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Chairperson of the Greek delegation, and by Mr Ahmet Yıldız, Chairperson of the Turkish delegation, about the alarming raise of tensions between Türkiye and Greece.

3. Decisions of the Bureau requiring ratification by the Assembly

3.1. Composition of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

On 12 September, on the basis of a proposal by the group EPP/CD, the Bureau appointed Mr François Calvet (France) as a member.

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

Appendix 1 – Terms of reference of the ad hoc of the Bureau on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

AS/Bur (2022) 39

23 June 2022

Bureau of the Assembly

Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

The Bureau of the Assembly decides, subject to ratification by the Assembly through its Progress Report, under Article 44.4.c. of the Rules of Procedure, to set up an *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, with the following terms of reference, composition and timetable.

1. Terms of reference

In Recommendation 2228 (2022), the Assembly reiterated its support for the organisation of a 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of Council of Europe to reaffirm the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law and elaborate a new vision for the Organisation in the context of the European multilateral architecture, an idea launched in Resolution 2186 (2017) and Recommendation 2113 (2017) and further elaborated, inter alia, in Resolution 2277 (2019), Recommendation 2153 (2019); Resolution 2369 (2021) and Recommendation 2199 (2021).

At the 132nd Session of the Committee of Ministers, held in Turin (Italy), on 20 May 2022, the Committee of Ministers "invited the Secretary General to set up a High-Level Reflection Group to consider Council of Europe's responses to new realties and challenges and to start reporting to [the Ministers' Deputies] at the earliest opportunity and no later than the handover meeting between the Irish and Icelandic Chairmanships" and decided "to consider the desirability of a 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe".

Against this background, the Bureau decides to set up an ad hoc Committee to contribute to the report on ***"A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe"***, being prepared by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, in particular by

– interacting with the High-Level Reflection Group and providing the Assembly's input into the reflection;

– contributing to the preparation of the 4th Summit, in particular as regards its agenda and possible deliverables;

As and when appropriate, the *ad hoc* Committee will ensure the Assembly's representation at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe.

2. Composition

In an inclusive approach, the *ad hoc* Committee will be composed of:

– the President of the Assembly;

– Presidents of all Assembly's Political Groups or, in their absence their representative for the group concerned;

– the Chairpersons of the Assembly's general committees listed in Rule 44.1 of the Rules of Procedure or, in their absence a vice-chairperson for the committee concerned;

– Chairpersons of the delegations holding the current and the immediate next Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (Ireland and Iceland);

– the Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on "A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe".

3. Timetable

The *ad hoc* Committee is expected to report back to the Bureau during the October 2022 part-session of the Assembly, but its timetable will be regularly reviewed and adjusted, as necessary.

Appendix 2 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 October 2022)

Chairperson / Président Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH**,** Austria / Autriche, SOC

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

– Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche
– Ms / M^{me} Edite ESTRELA, Portugal
– Ms / M^{me} Margreet DE BOER, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
– Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France
– Mr / M. Tony LLOYD, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
– Ms / M^{me} Marina BERLINGHIERI, Italy / Italie

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Darko KAEVSKI, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
– Mr / M. Axel SCHÄFER, Germany / Allemagne
– Mr / M. Christian PETRY, Germany / Allemagne
– Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse
– Mr / M. Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI, San Marino / Saint-Marin
– Mr / M. Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro / Monténégro
– Ms / M^{me} Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande

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

– Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania / Roumanie
– Mr / M. Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland / Pologne
– Ms / M^{me} Catia POLIDORI, Italy / Italy
– Mr / M. Davor Ivo STIER, Croatia / Croatie
– Ms / M^{me} Anne-Mari VIROLAINEN, Finland / Finlande
– Ms / M^{me} Boriana ÅBERG, Sweden / Suède

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Lőrinc NACSA, Hungary / Hongrie
– Ms / M^{me} Sylvie GOY-CHAVENT, France
– Mr / M. Christian KLINGER, France
– Mr / M. Joe O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande
– Ms / M^{me} Maria RIZZOTTI, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Francesco SCOMA, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Krzysztof TRUSKOLASKI, Poland / Pologne

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

– Lord Simon RUSSELL, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
– Lord Richard KEEN, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

– Mr / M. Arkadiusz MULARCZYK, Poland / Pologne
– Mr / M. Alberto RIBOLLA, Italy / Italie

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. John HOWELL, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
– Mr / M. Barna Pál ZSIGMOND, Hungary / Hongrie

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

– Mr / M. Claude KERN, France
– Mr / M Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie
– Ms / M^{me} Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA, Ukraine

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN, Switzerland / Suisse
– Ms / M^{me} Nicole DURANTON, France
– Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France

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

– Mr / M. Antón GÓMEZ-REINO, Spain / Espagne

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Andrej HUNKO, Germany / Allemagne
– Mr / M. Hişyar ÖZSOY, Türkiye

Members not belonging to a Political Group (NR) / Membres n'appartenant à aucun groupe politique (NI)

– Mr / M. Ahmet YILDIZ, Türkiye

Co-rapporteur·e·s AS/MON (ex officio)

– Ms / M^{me} Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA, Bulgaria / Bulgarie
– Mr / M. Zsolt NÉMETH, Hungary / Hongrie
– Mr / M. Matthieu MONIN, Administrator / Administrateur AS/Mon

Venice Commission / Commission de Venise

– Mr / M. Père VILANOVA TRIAS, Member, Andorra / membre, Andorre
– Mr / M. Michael JANSSEN, Administrator, Venice Commission / administrateur, Commission de Venise

Appendix 3 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the general elections in Bulgaria (2 October 2022)

Chairperson / Président Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse, ALDE / ADLE

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

– Ms / M^me^ Heike ENGELHARDT, Germany / Allemagne
– Mr / M. André VALLINI, France
– Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye
– Mr / M. Givi MIKANADZE, Georgia / Géorgie
– Mr / M. Pedro CEGONHO, Portugal
– Ms / M^me^ Susana SUMELZO, Spain / Espagne

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Axel SCHAEFER, Germany / Allemagne
– Mr / M. Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES, Spain / Espagne
– Mr / M. Sabir HAJIYEV, Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
– Mr / M. Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro / Monténégro

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

– Ms / M^me^ Mirosława NYKIEL, Poland / Pologne
– Mr / M. Joe O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande
– Ms / M^me^ Maria RIZZOTTI, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Chris SAID, Malta / Malte
– …
– …

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

– Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse
– Ms / M^me^ Liliana TANGUY, France
– Ms / M^me^ Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France
– Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN, Switzerland / Suisse
– Mr / M. Georges-Louis BOUCHEZ, Belgium / Belgique

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

– Ms / M^me^ Emine Nur GÜNAY, Türkiye (NR / NI)
– Mr / M. Mehmet Mehdi EKER, Türkiye (NR / NI)
– Mr / M. Ahmet BÜYÜKGÜMÜŞ, Türkiye (NR / NI)

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

– Mr / M. Paul GAVAN, Ireland / Irlande

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Ms / M^{me} Laura CASTEL FORT, Spain / Espagne

Co-rapporteur·e·s AS/Mon (ex officio)

– Ms / M^{me} Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande

Venice Commission / Commission de Venise

Appendix 4 – Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2023

Monday 23 January, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 27 January, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 2 March, 3.00 pm, The Hague	Bureau
Friday 3 March, 9.30 am, The Hague	Standing Committee
Monday 24 April, 3.00 pm, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 28 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 25 May, 3.00 pm, Riga	Bureau
Friday 26 May, 9.00 am, Riga	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 19 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 23 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 11 September, 9.00 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 9 October, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 13 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 27 November, 3.00 pm, Vaduz	Bureau
Tuesday 28 November, 9.30 am, Vaduz	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Friday 15 December, 9.00 am, Paris	Bureau