Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 15745 Add. 1
24 April 2023

Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (24 April 2023)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Mr Ian LIDDELL-GRAINGER, United Kingdom, European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance

1. Decisions of the Bureau of 24 April 2023 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

– Doc. 15690, Motion for a resolution, The question of the right to just and equal redress and the access to court and a fair trial for all victims of the German aggression during the Second World War: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to take into account in themotion for a resolution on "Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress"*

– Doc. 15697, Motion for a resolution, Misuse of the anti-money laundering measures and countering the financing of terrorism regulations as a tool of transnational repression: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for consultation*

– Doc. 15698, Motion for a resolution, The use of explosive weapons as a major driver of justified displacement: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

– Doc. 15699, Motion for a resolution, Urgent call on transferring Mikheil Saakashvili, the third President of Georgia for treatment abroad: reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on the "Honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia"*

– Doc. 15701, Motion for a resolution, The foreseeable wealth gap in the automated future: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for consultation*

– Doc. 15702, Motion for a recommendation, Socialising at schools, a means for students' well-being*:* transmission to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for consultation*

– Doc. 15704, Motion for a resolution, Combating forced "harvesting" and "trafficking" in human organs: transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*

– Doc. 15705, Motion for a resolution, The Iranian regime's murderous suppression, and the need to declare the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organisation: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on "The situation in Iran"*

– Doc. 15707, Motion for a resolution, Clean Air (indoor and outdoor) public health and greenhouse gases*:* transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*

– Doc. 15712, Motion for a resolution, Ensuring the right to fair trial in the context of State immunities: how to strike the right balance?*:* reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on "Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"*

1.2. Elections observation

1.2.1. Montenegro: parliamentary election (11 June 2023)

The Bureau, subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-6; EPP/CD-6; ALDE-4; EC/DA-3; UEL-1), as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee.

1.3. Issues raised by committees

1.3.1. Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

The Bureau decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists, in Riga on 5-6 October 2023.

1.3.2. Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

The Bureau took take note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and approved the terms of reference of the General Rapporteur for political prisoners (Appendix 1).

1.4. Composition of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

The Bureau, on the basis of a proposal by the group ALDE, appointed Ms Sona GHAZARYAN (Armenia) as a member.

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

2. Other decisions by the Bureau

2.1. Second part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 24-28 April)

The Bureau took note of a letter addressed by the Commissioner for Human Rights to the President of the Assembly in reply to his request for information ahead of the presentation of her annual activity report 2022 before the Assembly.

2.1.1. Request for a debate under urgent procedure

The Bureau took note of the request to hold a debate on

– The situation of Ukrainian civilians, including children, forcibly displaced or transferred to the Russian Federation or Ukrainian territories under the de facto control of the Russian Federation, tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and to refer the matter to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons for report and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for opinion.

2.1.2. Requests for current affairs debates

The Bureau took note of the requests for current affairs debates on:

– *On the #RoadToReykjavik*, tabled by the leaders of the political groups, and decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and appointed Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) as the first speaker.

– *Russia's role in escalating tensions in the Republic of Moldova*, tabled by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris and other members of the Assembly, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and appointed Mr Aleksander Pociej (Poland, EPP/CD) as the first speaker.

2.1.3. Draft agenda

The Bureau updated the draft agenda.

2.1.4. Joint Committee (Strasbourg, 26 April 2023)

The Bureau prepared the meeting of the Joint Committee.

2.1.5. Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights

The Bureau took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on the election of judges following interviews with candidates for the post of a judge in respect of Romania (Doc. 15745 Add. 2).

2.2. 4th Council of Europe Heads of State and Government Summit (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023)

The Bureau agreed that the Assembly would be represented by the Presidential Committee and the rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on "The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges".

2.3. Meeting of the Standing Committee in Reykjavik (15 May 2023)

The Bureau took note of the draft agenda.

2.4. Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (from 27 January to 23 April 2023)

The Bureau approved the Progress report (Doc. 15745).

2.5. Communications

The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. It held an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2.6. Election observation

2.6.1. Montenegro: Presidential election (19 March 2023)

The Bureau approved the report by the observation mission.

2.6.2. Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (2 April 2023)

The Bureau took note of the statement by the observation mission.

2.6.3. Conference "Elections in times of crisis: challenges and opportunities" (Bern, 9-10 May 2023)

The Bureau took note of the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to attend the conference (Appendix 2).

2.6.4. Türkiye: Presidential and parliamentary elections (14 May 2023)

The Bureau took note of the statement by the pre-electoral delegation and to took note of the updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 3).

2.7. Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau authorised the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to meet in Reykjavik on 21-22 September 2023.

Appendix 1 – Mandate: General Rapporteur on Political Prisoners in Europe

Terms of reference

Term of office: one year, renewable once

Mandate

The general rapporteur on Political Prisoners in Europe is mandated to intervene in matters relating to alleged cases of politically motivated arrests and criminal prosecutions in Europe and in other countries having an observer or cooperative status with the Council of Europe or the Parliamentary Assembly.

Definition

A "political prisoner" is a person who is deprived of his or her liberty in circumstances fulfilling one or more of the criteria reaffirmed in Assembly Resolution 1900 (2012), namely:

a. if the detention has been imposed in violation of one of the fundamental guarantees set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols (ECHR), in particular freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression and information, freedom of assembly and association;

b. if the detention has been imposed for purely political reasons without connection to any offence;

c. if, for political motives, the length of the detention or its conditions are clearly out of proportion to the offence the person has been found guilty of or is suspected of;

d. if, for political motives, he or she is detained in a discriminatory manner as compared to other persons; or,

e. if the detention is the result of proceedings which were clearly unfair and this appears to be connected with political motives of the authorities." (SG/Inf(2001)34, paragraph 10).

The finding by the European Court of Human Rights, in favour of a person deprived of his or her liberty, of a violation of Articles 5 in conjunction with Article 18 of the European Convention of Human Rights is a strong indication that such a person is a "political prisoner".

Responsibilities:

The role of the general rapporteur is to:

– follow activities and maintain working relations, when need arises, with different Council of Europe institutions and bodies which deal with issues relating to politcial prisoners, including the Committee of Ministers, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary General and the Conference of INGOs;

– follow activities and maintain, when appropriate, working relations with bodies and agencies of the United Nations (including its Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions), the European Union, with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in particular the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Political Prisoners, and with other international governmental and non-governmental organisations;

– represent the committee on behalf of the Assembly *vis-à-vis* any of the above mentioned bodies and groups, when relevant and appropriate;

– in appropriate cases, make statements and launch appeals on his/her own behalf or propose to do so to the Committee;

– in appropriate cases, engage in communication with alleged political prisoners or their families and their lawyers;

– follow up previous resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly on issues related to alleged cases of political prisoners.

The general rapporteur shall report periodically, at least annually, to the committee on information collected and any action taken.

Appendix 2 – Conference "Elections in times of crisis: challenges and opportunities" (Bern, 9-10 May 2023): updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to participate in the conference

Chairperson / Président: Mr / M. Damien COTTIER (Switzerland / Suisse, ALDE / ADLE)

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

– Mr / M. Adnan DIBRANI, Sweden / Suède
– Ms / M^me^ Marietta KARAMANLI, France
– Ms / M^me^ Róisín GARVEY, Ireland / Irlande
– Ms / M^me^ Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande
– Mr / M. Ion PRIOTEASA, Romania / Roumanie
– Ms / M^me^ Edite ESTRELA, Portugal
– Ms / M^me^ Jelena MILOŠEVIĆ, Serbia / Serbie
– Mr / M. Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro / Monténégro
– Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU, Cyprus / Chypre
– Ms / M^me^ Cécile HEMMEN, Luxembourg

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Haluk KOÇ, Türkiye

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

– Mr / M. Lulzim BASHA, Albania / Albanie
– Mr / M. Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania / Roumanie
– Mr / M. Georg GEORGIEV, Bulgaria / Bulgarie
– Ms / M^me^ Sylvie GOY-CHAVENT, France
– Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche
– Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚÂGÂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie
– Ms / M^me^ Arusyak JULHAKYAN, Armenia / Arménie
– Mr / M. Sergiy VLASENKO, Ukraine
– zz

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Kęstutis MASIULIS, Lithuania / Lituanie
– Ms / M^me^ Isabel MEIRELLES, Portugal
– Mr / M. Jacek PROTASIEWICZ, Poland / Pologne
– Ms / M^me^ Denitsa SACHEVA, Bulgaria, Bulgarie
– Ms / M^me^ Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA, Bulgaria, Bulgarie

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 / M^me^ Liliana TANGUY, France
– Ms / M^me^ Lesia ZABURANNA, Ukraine
– Ms / M^me^ Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie
– zz

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France

– Ms / M^me^ Oleksandra USTINOVA, Ukraine

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

– Mr / M. Ian PAISLEY, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

– Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine

– Mr / M. Erkin GADIRLI, Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan

– Mr / M. Ahmet YILDIZ, Türkiye (NR/NI)

– Ms / M^me^ Emine Nur GÜNAY,Türkiye (NR/NI)

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

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

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Ms / M^me^ Nina KASIMATI, Greece / Grèce

Membres not belonging to a political group (NR) / Membres n'appartenant à aucun groupe politique (NI)

– Ms / M^me^ Serap YAŞAR, Türkiye

Members of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission*(ex officio)*/ Membres du Conseil des Elections Démocratiques de la Commission de Venise*(ex officio)*

– Mr / M. Michael Georg LINK, Germany / Allemagne

– Ms / M^me^ María Valentina MARTÍNEZ FERRO, Spain / Espagne

– Mr / M. Davor Ivo STIER, Croatia / Croatie

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL, Spain / Espagne

– Ms / M^me^ Khatia DEKANOIDZE, Georgia / Géorgie

– Mr / M. Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland / Pologne

Appendix 3 – Türkiye: Presidential and parliamentary elections (14 May 2023): updated list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections

Chairperson / Président: Mr / M. Frank SCHWABE (Germany / Allemagne, SOC)

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

– Mr / M. Frank SCHWABE, Germany / Allemagne*
– Ms / M^me^ Kate OSAMOR, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
– Ms / M^me^ Margreet DE BOER, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
– Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse
– Mr / M. Andrea ORLANDO, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Paulo PISCO, Portugal
– Ms / M^me^ Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR, Iceland / Islande
– Mr / M. Max LUCKS, Germany / Allemagne
– Ms / M^me^ Derya TÜRK-NACHBAUR, Germany / Allemagne
– Mr / M. Andrzej SZEJNA, Poland / Pologne
– Mr / M. André VALLINI, France
– Ms / M^me^ Heike ENGELHARDT, Germany / Allemagne

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– 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^ Marie-Christine DALLOZ, France
– Ms / M^me^ Iva DIMIC Slovenia / Slovénie
– Mr / M. Kęstutis MASIULIS, Lithuania / Lituanie *
– Ms / M^me^ Isabel MEIRELLES, Portugal
– Mr / M. Jacek PROTASIEWICZ, Poland / Pologne
– Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚÂGÂRLAȘ
– ZZ
– ZZ
– ZZ
– ZZ
– ZZ

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

– Ms / M^me^ Mireille CLAPOT, France*
– Ms / M^me^ Nicole DURANTON, France
– Ms / M^me^ Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Rafael HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
– Ms / M^me^ Gyde JENSEN, Germany / Allemagne
– Ms / M^me^ Denisa Elena NEAGU, Romania / Roumanie
– Mr / M. Dean PREMIK, Slovenia / Slovénie
– Ms / M^me^ Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA, Ukraine

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Georges-Louis BOUCHEZ, Belgium / Belgique

– Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France

– Ms / M^{me} Oleksandra USTINOVA, Ukraine

– Ms / M^{me} Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie

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

– Mr / M. Norbert KLEINWÄCHTER, Germany / Allemagne

– Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine

– Mr / M. Simone BILLI, Italy / Italie

– Lord Simon RUSSELL, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni*

– Mr / M. Kamal JAFAROV, Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan

– Mr / M. Dmytro NATALUKHA, Ukraine

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

– Mr / M. Andrej HUNKO, Germany / Allemagne

– Mr / M. George LOUCAIDES, Cyprus / Chypre *

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

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

Co-rapporteurs AS/MON*(ex officio)*

– Mr / M. John HOWELL, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni*

– Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche

* members of the pre-election delegation / membres de la délégation préélectorale