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Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (28 April – 18 June 2023)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Mr Iulian BULAI, Romania, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

1. Introduction

At its meeting on 28 April 2023, the Bureau appointed me as rapporteur for this report, which covers its activities over the period from the last Bureau meeting of the second part-session of 2023 (Friday 28 April) to the pre-session Bureau meeting of the third part-session (Monday 19 June 2023).

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 which have been already ratified by the Standing Committee.

An addendum to this report will be issued after the Bureau meeting of 19 June, which will include decisions to be ratified by the Assembly at the opening of the 2023 third part-session. Another addendum will be issued after the Bureau meeting of 23 June. 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 meetings on Thursday 14 September 2023 in Paris, and on Monday 27 November 2023 in Vaduz. The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in Vaduz on 28 November 2023.

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

2.1. Follow-up to the second part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 24-28 April)

On 28 April, the Bureau approved the follow-up proposals to the second part-session, made by the Secretary General of the Assembly, as follows:

– Debate on *#RoadToReykjavik*: decided to ask the rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE), to continue to follow the matter

– Debate on *Russia's role in escalating tensions in the Republic of Moldova*: decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on *The political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*

– Resolution 2492 (2023) *Assessing the functioning of the partnership for democracy*: decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on *Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure*

– Resolution 2494 (2023) *Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights*: decided to seize the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report.

2.2. Standing Committee, Reykjavik, 15 May 2023

On 28 April, the Bureau took note of the draft agenda.

2.3. 4th Council of Europe Heads of State and Government Summit (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023)

On 25 May, the Bureau took note of the Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit by the Heads of State and Government and considered a draft Declaration on the follow-up to the 4th Summit with a view to its adoption by the Standing Committee.

2.4. Standing Committee, Riga, 26 May 2023

On 28 April, the Bureau took note of the draft agenda, and took note of the requests of the leaders of the five political groups to hold current affairs debates on *The follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit* and on *Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics*.

On 25 May, it recommended to the Standing Committee to hold these debates and appointed Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) as the first speaker of the debate on *The follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit*, and Mr Indrek Saar (Estonia, SOC) as the first speaker of the debate on *Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics*. The Bureau updated the draft agenda.

2.5. Third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June)

On 25 May, the Bureau took note of the requests to hold debates under urgent procedure on:

– *Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor*, submitted by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

– *Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, submitted by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

– *War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?*, submitted by the leaders of the five political groups.

It also decided, for the third part-session of 2023 (Strasbourg, 19-23 June), to organise the seating in the hemicycle according to political groups, and to open the notification of substitutions by debate,[1] and drew-up the draft agenda.

2.6. Transmission by the Committee of Ministers for consultation on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30

On 28 April, the Bureau took note of the letter of 24 April 2023 from the President of the Ministers' Deputies, enclosing the decision, taken by the Ministers' Deputies on the same day at their 1464bis meeting under item 2.4 "Application for membership", to transmit to the Parliamentary Assembly for consultation the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (document DD(2022)200), without prejudice to the Committee of Ministers' future consideration of this application to accede to the Council of Europe. On the same day, it decided to refer the issue to the Committee of Political Affairs and Democracy for report, for the preparation of the statutory Opinion to the Committee of Ministers on the application for membership, and to the Committee of Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee of Equality and Non-Discrimination for opinion.

It also instructed the President of the Assembly to present at its next meeting, on 25 May in Riga, proposals for the appointment by the Bureau, on the same day, of two eminent lawyers who, according to established practice, will draw up a report for the attention of the Bureau assessing the conformity of the applicant's legal system with Council of Europe standards. On 25 May, upon proposals by the President, the Bureau appointed Ms Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Mr Thomas Markert, as the eminent lawyers.

1. Due to the necessary technical adjustments, the modification of the system of substitutions by debate decided by the Bureau has been postponed to the October 2023 part-session.

2.7. Communications

On 28 April, the Bureau took note of the statement by the President of the Assembly. On 25 May, 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.

2.8. Extension of references

On 28 April, the Bureau approved the following requests for extension of references:

– Respect for the rule of law and fight against corruption within the Council of Europe, Doc. 15195, Reference 4556 of 25 January 2021 (extended on 1 February 2021) – validity: 25 July 2023: extension until 31 December 2023

– Establishment of a "youth partner" status with the Parliamentary Assembly, Doc. 15262, Reference 4582 of 28 May 2021 – validity: 28 May 2023: extension until 28 November 2023.

2.9. Election observation

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

On 25 May, the Bureau approved the report by the observation mission.

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

On 28 April, the Bureau approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to attend the conference (appendix 1). The summary report and conclusions of the parliamentary conference are published as the addendum 1 of this progress report (Doc. 15791 add1).

2.9.3. Türkiye: presidential and parliamentary elections (14 May 2023)

On 25 May, the Bureau took note of the statement by the observation mission.

2.9.4. Montenegro: parliamentary elections (11 June 2023)

On 28 April, the Bureau approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections. On 25 May, it appointed Mr Reinhold Lopatka (Austria, EPP/CD) as its Chairperson and approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee (appendix 2).

2.10. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

On 28 April, the Bureau took note of the extension, until 30 June 2023, of the deadline to submit candidatures to the 2023 edition of the Prize.

2.11. Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment

On 28 April, the Bureau took note that the Prize would be launched at a special event in the margins of the Standing Committee in Reykjavik, on 15 May 2023.

2.12. European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) – Lists of candidates in respect of Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Lithuania, San Marino

On 28 April, the Bureau approved the lists of candidates in respect of these countries to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers.

2.13. Issues raised by committees

2.13.1. Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

On 25 May, the Bureau authorised the rapporteur on "The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms", to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan, in the framework of the preparation of his report. It also authorised the rapporteur on "Strengthening relations

between the Council of Europe and Latin America", to carry out fact-finding visits to Parlatino (Panama), Colombia and Mexico (at no cost to the Assembly), in the course of 2023, in the framework of the preparation of his report.

2.14. Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris

On 28 April, the Bureau authorised the ad hoc sub-committee on Western Balkans of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, to hold a meeting in Skopje, on 20 October 2023. It also took note that the Presidential Committee would visit Kyiv before the 2023 June part-session, subject to receiving an invitation, and encouraged the rapporteurs with relevant mandates in the committees to assess the opportunity to pay fact-finding visits to Ukraine, in the framework of the preparation of their reports. In this context, the Bureau decided to give no follow-up to the request by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for its ad hoc sub-committee to carry out a second fact-finding visit to Ukraine.

2.15. 2023 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November)

On 25 May, the Bureau took note of the concept paper and decide to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum.

3. Decisions taken by the Bureau at its meeting on 25 May, and subsequently ratified by the Standing Committee

3.1. Composition of the Monitoring Committee

On 25 May, the Bureau, on the basis of a proposal by the EC/DA group, nominated Ms Sheryll Murray (United Kingdom) as a member.

3.2. References and transmissions to committees

3.2.1. References to committees

– *The need to designate the Russian "Wagner Group" as a terrorist organisation*, Doc. 15720*:* transmission 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"* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*

– *Strengthening the protection of biodiversity in Europe through sustainable and fair financing of the Bern Convention*, Doc. 15727*:* transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for consultation*

– *Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine,* Doc. 15728: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*, and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and transmission to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for information*

– *Promoting universal health coverage*, Doc. 15729*:* reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

– *Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine*, Doc. 15732*:* reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and 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"*

– *Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons*, Doc. 15735*:* reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

– *Call for a change on rules relating to gender quota*, Doc. 15749*:* transmission to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on "Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure"* and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for information*

– *Protecting human rights in and through sport: obligations and shared responsibilities*, Doc. 15750*:* reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

– *Investigation into the illegal surveillance of foreign leaders, political opponents and activists in Poland*, Doc. 15751*:* transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the framework of the report on "Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance"* and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information*

– Budgets and priorities of the Council of Europe for the period 2024-2027, Terms of reference of the committee: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

– Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2024-2025, Terms of reference of the committee: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

3.2.2. Reply after consultation

– *The foreseeable wealth gap in the automated future*, Doc. 15701*:* reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for taking into account within the framework of the preparation of its report on "Safeguarding future rights for future generations"*

4. Activities of the Standing Committee

4.1. Standing Committee in Reykjavik, 15 May 2023

The Standing Committee, meeting on 15 May in Reykjavik, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

– heard a welcome address by Mr Birgir Ármannsson, Speaker of Alþingi – Parliament of Iceland;

– heard an online address by Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;

– within the framework of the Special event on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe – United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges:

- heard the introductory remarks by Mr Bjarni Jónsson, Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly;

- heard the remarks by Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- held a panel discussion on "The Council of Europe as a key player of the multilateral architecture", moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfsdóttir, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of Ms Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland; Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly; Ms Sylvie Bermann, former Ambassador of France to Beijing, London, and Moscow; and Ms Alice Bergholtz, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe;

- held a panel discussion on "The Council of Europe as a pioneer of human rights protection: the new generation of rights", moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfsdóttir, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland; Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly; Ms Ilze Brands Kehris, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights; Ms Nathalie Smuha, Researcher and Assistant Lecturer, Institute for European Law, KU Leuven, expert on Artificial Intelligence; and Ms Tinna Hallgrímsdóttir, youth representative in the Icelandic Climate Council;

- heard an address by Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition;

- heard concluding remarks by Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, and Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly.

4.2. Standing Committee in Riga, 26 May 2023

The Standing Committee, meeting on 26 May 2023 in Riga, Latvia, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

– heard the welcome address by Mr Edvards Smiltēns, Speaker of the Saeima;

– held an exchange of views with Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia;

– ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Austria, Georgia, Germany and the Republic of Moldova;

– approved changes in the composition of Assembly committees;

– took note of the draft agenda of the third part-session of the Assembly (19-23 June 2023);

– ratified the references proposed by the Bureau (see Appendix 1);

– held a current affairs debate on “The follow-up to the Reykjavík Summit”, heard a statement by Ms Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights, and adopted a declaration as amended (see Appendix 3);

– took note of the report of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (2 April 2023);

– held an exchange of views with Mr Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank;

– held a current affairs debate on “Excluding athletes from Russia and Belarus from taking part in the Olympics” and heard a statement by Mr Kaspars Cipruss, Secretary General of the Latvian Basketball Federation;

– decided to hold its next meeting in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, on 28 November 2023.

Appendix 1 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the parliamentary conference on "Elections in times of crisis: Challenges and opportunities" (Bern, Switzerland, 9-10 May 2023)

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

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

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

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
– Ms / M^me^ Arusyak JULHAKYAN, Armenia / Arménie
– Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche
– Ms / M^me^ Isabel MEIRELLES, Portugal
– Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU-ȚÂGÂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie
– Mr / M. Sergiy VLASENKO, Ukraine

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Yuri KAMELCHUK, Ukraine
– Mr / M. Kęstutis MASIULIS, Lithuania / Lituanie
– 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^ Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Andrii LOPUSHANSKYI, Ukraine
– Ms / M^me^ Liliana TANGUY, France
– Ms / M^me^ Lesia ZABURANNA, Ukraine

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

– Mr / M. Erkin GADIRLI, Azerbaijan
– Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine

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

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

– Mr / M. Ahmet YILDIZ, 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)

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

– Mr / M. Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland / Pologne

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

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Ms / M^me^ Laura CASTEL, Spain / Espagne

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

Appendix 2 – List of members of the ad hoc committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Montenegro (11 June 2023)

Chairperson / Président: Mr Reinhold LOPATKA (Austria / Autriche, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)

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

– Mr / M. Adnan DIBRANI, Sweden / Suède
– Mr / M. Constantinos EFSTATHIOU, Cyprus / Chypre
– Ms / M^me^ Edite ESTRELA, Portugal
– Mr / M. Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ, Croatia / Croatie
– Ms / M^me^ Cécile HEMMEN, Luxembourg
– Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye
– Mr / M. Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine
– Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France
– Ms / M^me^ Daniela OTEŞANU, Romania / Roumanie
– Mr / M. André VALLINI, France

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. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche
– Mr / M. Joe O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande
– Mr / M. Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland / Pologne
– Ms / M^me^ Jorida TABAKU, Albania / Albanie

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

– Mr / M. Eerik-Niiles KROSS, Estonia / Estonie
– Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France
– Mr / M. Andrii LOPUSHANSKYI, Ukraine
– Ms / M^me^ Fiona O'LOUGHLIN, Ireland / Irlande

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN, Switzerland / Suisse
– Ms / M^me^ Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie
– Ms / M^me^ Ms Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA, Ukraine
– Ms / M^me^ Diana STOICA, Romania / Roumanie
– Ms / M^me^ Liliana TANGUY, France

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

– Mr / M. Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Ukraine
– Mr / M. José Maria SANCHEZ GARCIA, Spain / Espagne
– Mr / M. Harald WEYEL, Germany / Allemagne

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

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

Substitutes / suppléant·e·s

– Mr / M. Andrej HUNKO, Germany / Allemagne

Co-rapporteur·e·s AS/MON (ex officio)

– Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse

– Mr / M. Nicos TORNARITIS, Cyprus / Chypre

Appendix 3 - Declaration on The Reykjavik Summit: a strong message of unity, common purpose and unwavering resolve to be followed up by action

1. Meeting today in Riga as the Standing Committee, the Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the Reykjavik Declaration "United around our values" adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the 4th Council of Europe Summit (Reykjavik, 16 – 17 May 2023), as a strong message of unity, common purpose and unwavering resolve. The Declaration reflects the key concerns and proposals set out in Assembly recommendation 2245 (2023) "The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe – United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges".

2. With the Reykjavik Declaration, the Heads of State and Government have provided a new direction for the Council of Europe in the years to come. As a statutory organ of the Council of Europe, the Assembly stands ready to translate the Summit vision into concrete results, through its parliamentary deliberations, its monitoring procedure, its inter-parliamentary co-operation activities and networks, and its interaction with the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General.

3. Standing with Ukraine for as long as it takes, the Assembly will spare no effort to support the reconstruction and democratic resilience of Ukraine, being convinced that well-functioning democratic institutions, respect for the rule of law and compliance with democratic standards together with stronger European integration are the best guarantees for the democratic security of Ukraine and Europe.

4. Recalling that there cannot be lasting peace without accountability, the Assembly welcomes the establishment of an Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine, as a first component of a future international compensation mechanism, and encourages other countries to add their names to those of the 45 member and observer states, and the European Union, which have already joined it or declared their intention to do so.

5. At the same time, the Assembly will resolutely pursue its efforts to ensure that the political and military leadership of the Russian Federation is held to account for its war of aggression against Ukraine, supporting the urgent establishment of a special tribunal for the crime of aggression and calling for the Council of Europe to be a part of relevant consultations and negotiations, providing its expert and technical support. It calls for justice for the victims of war crimes, human rights and humanitarian law violations and for the creation of viable mechanisms to ensure the return of abducted persons, including children, back home.

6. Following up the Reykjavik Declaration, the Assembly will strive to preserve the role of the Council of Europe as a beacon of human rights protection, by promoting compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights, protecting the authority of the Court, and ensuring the swift and satisfactory execution of its judgements; and by promoting the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights without any further delay.

7. Welcoming the Reykjavík Process, and reaffirming once more its belief that the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a fundamental human right which should be enshrined in domestic and international law, the Assembly will contribute actively to the standard-setting work of the Council of Europe in the environmental field. It will also continue to support the Organisation's work to shape human rights protection in the digital age and to address other emerging societal challenges from a human rights perspective.

8. Convinced of the urgent need to prevent and resist democratic backsliding, the Assembly will continue to support member states in tackling its root causes, placing greater emphasis on promoting equality and protecting social rights. It will endorse, promote and further develop the Reykjavik Principles of Democracy. The Assembly will strengthen its initiatives to prevent and counter foreign interference with democratic processes, to enhance the integrity of elections, and to promote media freedom and freedom of expression. It will also step up its engagement with civil society and mainstream a youth perspective in its work, as well as continue promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

9. As the body representing the national parliaments of all member States, the Assembly stands ready to engage in the Council of Europe High-level Dialogue with member States and partners on the Reykjavik Principles of Democracy. It will also play its part beyond Council of Europe membership, strengthening relations with parliamentary bodies and other international organisations, further consolidating dialogue and co-operation with Belarusian democratic forces and civil society, and identifying channels and means to strengthen dialogue with Russian democratic forces and civil society who share Council of Europe values.

10. The Assembly calls on all its members, representing national parliaments of the 46 member States, to commit to ensuring that the Reykjavik Declaration finds its expression in action at the national level, through holding governments to account on the commitments made at the Summit, supporting the necessary legislative changes and ratifications, and ensuring and mobilizing the level of budgetary resources commensurate with the mandate and tasks given to the Organisation in Reykjavik.

11. Finally, the Assembly expresses its appreciation for the climate of constructive dialogue with which it co-operated with the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General and other Council of Europe bodies in the lead-up to the Summit and looks forward to pursuing this approach in its follow-up, including through the Joint Committee. It also supports holding regular Summits of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe to provide overarching direction and political momentum to the Organisation.