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Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (19 June 2023)

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

1. Decisions of the Bureau of 19 June 2023 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

– A parliamentary sponsorship programme between the Parliamentary Assembly members and human rights defenders or the politically oppressed, Doc. 15752, Motion for a resolution*:* transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for consultation*

– Ending the abuse of politically motivated prosecutions by the State prosecution service in Poland, Doc. 15755, Motion for a resolution*:* transmission 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 Poland"*

– The role of youth revitalising democracy, Doc. 15756, Motion for a resolution*:* reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion*

– Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, Doc. 15758, Motion for a resolution*:* reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

– Impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market, Doc. 15759, Motion for a resolution*:* transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*

– Complicity of the Republic of Belarus in the illegal transfer of Ukrainian children from the occupied territories of Ukraine, Doc. 15769, Motion for a resolution*:* transmission to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for information*

– On private military companies, mercenaries, foreign fighters and their impact on human rights, Doc. 15771, Motion for a resolution*:* reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

1.2. Election observation

1.2.1. Poland: parliamentary election (October 2023, tbc)

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, and to conduct a pre-electoral mission.

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

2. Other decisions by the Bureau

2.1. Follow-up to the Standing Committee meetings (Reykjavik, 15 May 2023, and Riga, 26 May 2023)

The Bureau approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly.

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

2.2.1. Requests for debates under urgent procedure

The Bureau took note of the requests to hold debates on

– *Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor*, 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;

– *Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, and *War of aggression against Ukraine – Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Olympics?*, tabled by the leaders of the five political groups, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold these debates as a joint debate, and to refer the matter respectively for report to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media.

2.2.2. Request for a current affairs debate

The Bureau took note of the request for a current affairs debate on *Recent political developments in Poland*, tabled by the leaders of the five political groups, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and that the debate be jointly opened by the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, Mr Pieter Omtzigt and Ms Azadeh Rojhan.

2.2.3. Draft agenda

The Bureau updated the draft agenda.

2.3. Joint Committee (Strasbourg, 22 June 2023)

The Bureau prepared the meeting of the Joint Committee.

2.4. Petition

The Bureau took note of the letter, considered the information note from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the admissibility of the petition, and decided to take no further action on the petition.

2.5. Election observation

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

The Bureau approved the report by the observation mission (Doc. 15793).

2.5.2. Montenegro: parliamentary elections (11 June 2023)

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

2.6. Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (28 April – 18 June 2023)

The Bureau approved the Progress report (Doc. 15791).

2.7. 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 Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2.8. Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau authorised the Sub-committee on the Europe Prize of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Bolesławiec, Poland, on 18-19 August 2023.