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Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (13 October 2023)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Mr Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland, Group of the European People's Party

1. Decisions of the Bureau of 13 October 2023 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

– Sustainable European guidelines to counter social dumping and strengthen collective bargaining mechanisms, Doc. 15823*:* reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

– Bureau decision, current affairs debate: "The situation in the North of Kosovo*[1] following the recent attack and the need for de-escalation": transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and democracy *for information*

– Bureau decision, current affairs debate: "Escalation of violence in the Middle-East following the recent Hamas attack on Israel": transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the preparation of its report* on "Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?"

1.2. Issues raised by committees

1.2.1. Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

The Bureau took note of the letter by the committee and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in a Parliamentary Assembly co-operation event on "The situation of the children of Ukraine", on 15 December 2023, in Paris.

1.2.2. Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

The Bureau considered and approved the terms of reference of the General Rapporteur on Democracy, and took note that the mandate would start in January 2024 (Appendix).

1. * Throughout this text, 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.

1.3. Election observation

1.3.1. Serbia: early parliamentary election (17 December 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.

Appendix – General rapporteur on democracy: Terms of reference[2]

Denomination: General rapporteur on democracy

Term of office: One year, renewable once

Mandate: The general rapporteur on democracy ensures the visibility and coherence of the Assembly's actions to strengthen democracy, counter its backsliding and promote innovative practices to enhance citizens' trust in democratic institutions and their participation in political decision-making, in line with the Reykjavik Principles of Democracy and the approach endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the Fourth Council of Europe Summit (16-17 May 2023).

Responsibilities: The role of the general rapporteur is to:

– *enhance the capacity of the Assembly to identify and address emerging trends, tools, initiatives, challenges, and opportunities in the area of democracy, and enhance the quality of democratic life;*

– *follow activities and maintain relations with the Council of Europe organs, bodies and structures which deal with issues relating to democracy and the delivery of the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy, representing the Assembly as appropriate;*

– *follow activities and maintain, when appropriate, relations with bodies and agencies of the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and with other international governmental and inter-parliamentary organisations;*

– *contribute to promoting the role of the Assembly as a platform to promote exchange of best practice and innovations in the area of democracy, establishing dialogue with civil society and non-governmental organisations with special expertise in this field, in Europe and beyond;*

– *enhance the external visibility and outreach of the work and role of the Assembly on democracy, including the follow-up and promotion of adopted resolutions and recommendations of the Assembly and, in appropriate cases, make public statements, launch appeals, or propose to do so to the committee.*

The general rapporteur on democracy periodically reports to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy.

2. Terms of reference approved by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on 9 October 2023.