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15 April 2024

Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (15 April 2024)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Ms Petra BAYR, Austria, Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group

1. Decisions of the Bureau of 15 April 2024 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

– Concentration and threats to media pluralism and independence, Doc. 15916 Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*

– Socialising at schools: for an inclusive education fostering democratic values, Doc. 15917 Motion for a resolution*:* reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

– Ensuring full independence and respect for the separation of powers by Constitutional courts, Doc. 15918 Motion for a resolution*:* transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*

– Ensuring better protection of whistle-blowers in Europe, Doc. 15919 Motion for a resolution*:* reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

– Addressing youth participation and economic challenges, Doc. 15921 Motion for a resolution*:* reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "The role of youth in revitalising democracy"*

– Addressing the financial exclusion of Latin American immigrants, Doc. 15922 Motion for a resolution*:* transmission to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for information*

– Establishing a Register of companies that assist Russian entities in evading sanctions and combating circumvention of restrictive measures against Russian entities, Doc. 15923 Motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"*

– Artificial intelligence and migration, Doc. 15952 Motion for a resolution*:* reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

1.2. Election observation

1.2.1. Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (9 June 2024)

The Bureau, 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 take part in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Conference on “Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport”, in Athens, on 4-5 November 2024.

1.4. Europe Prize

The Bureau considered and approved the updated rules of the Prize (Appendix 1)**.**

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

The Bureau, on the basis of a proposal by the UEL Group, nominated Ms Laura Castel (Spain) as a member.

1.6. Composition of the Monitoring Committee

The Bureau, on the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, nominated Mr Andrian Cheptonar (Moldova) as a member.

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

2. Other decisions by the Bureau

2.1. Second part-session of 2024 (Strasbourg, 15-19 April)

2.1.1. Requests for debates under urgent procedure

The Bureau took note of the requests to hold debates under urgent procedure on *Alexei Navalny's death and the need to counter Vladimir Putin's totalitarian regime and its war on democracy*; *The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation and Belarus*; *Draft Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law*, tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold these debates, and to refer the matter to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report.

2.1.2. Request for a current affairs debate

The Bureau took note of the request to hold a debate on *Responding to the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and preventing further escalations in the Middle-East*, tabled by the Group of the Unified European Left, modified the title as follows *Responding to the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and preventing further escalations in the Middle-East following the recent Iranian attack against Israel*, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and appointed Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL) as the first speaker.

2.1.3. Draft agenda

The Bureau updated the agenda.

2.2. Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (26 January – 15 April 2024)

The Bureau approved the Progress report (Doc. 15959).

2.3. 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 for the post of judges in respect of Austria, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein and Monaco (Doc. 15959 Add. 2).

2.4. Election observation

2.4.1. North Macedonia: parliamentary elections (8 May 2024)

The Bureau took note of the statement by the pre-electoral observation mission.

2.5. Issues raised by committees

2.5.1. Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

The Bureau decided to authorise Ms Arusyak Julhakyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) and Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) to participate in the conference on “Migration and climate change”, on 30 April 2024, in Rabat, Morocco.

2.6. Extensions of references

The Bureau approved the following extensions of references:

– Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – a call to clarify their fate, Doc. 15488 Motion for a resolution Reference 4642 of 25 April 2022 – validity: 25 April 2024*:* extension until 31 December 2024.

– Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America, Doc. 15448 Motion for a recommendation Reference 4638 of 25 April 2022 – validity: 25 April 2024*:* extension until 27 April 2025.

– Analysis and guidelines for a sustainable and socially fair energy transition, Doc. 15515 Motion for a resolution Reference 4653 of 20 June 2022 – validity: 20 June 2024*:* extension until 20 June 2025.

2.7. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

The Bureau took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and re-appointed Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier as a member of the Selection Panel, for a second term of two years starting from 1 June 2024.

2.8. Communications

The Bureau took note of the communications 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.

2.9. Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2024

The Bureau approved the proposals contained in the document in Appendix 2.

2.10. Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau authorised the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, to meet in Tirana, on 4-5 July 2024.

It also authorised the ad hoc Sub-Committee to carry out a fact-finding visit to Sicily (Italy) of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to carry out this fact-finding visit early September 2024.

2.11. Other business

The Bureau took note that the President will ask the opinion of the Venice Commission on the Draft law of Georgia on Transparency of Foreign Influence.

Appendix 1 – Europe Prize Rules

Article 1

A Europe Prize offered by the Council of Europe shall be awarded each year by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly to one or more municipalities which have in the Committee's opinion made outstanding efforts to propagate the idea of European unity.

Article 2

The Europe Prize shall consist of a trophy to be held by the winner for one year, a bronze medal, a parchment and scholarship to be spent on a study visit in Europe for one or more young persons resident in the winning municipality.

Article 3

A Plaque of Honour will be awarded to certain municipalities which have already held the Flag of Honour for several years and whose efforts to propagate the idea of European unity are considered worthy of this distinction, ranking just below the Europe Prize.

Article 4

A Flag of Honour is awarded to certain municipalities which deserve an award in recognition of their work in promoting the European idea. These municipalities will usually be selected from among those already holding the European Diploma.

Article 5

A European Diploma will be presented to municipalities whose European merits have been recognised but whose application is too recent for the award of the Flag of Honour.

Article 6

The Committee shall designate the winning municipalities from among those which have submitted applications.

Article 7

Applications from municipalities shall be submitted by the chief officer, mayor or other representative, and must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg by 15 January. Each application must be accompanied by an account of the measures taken by the municipality to propagate the idea of European unity. Applications submitted prior to the current year remain valid for succeeding years. Municipalities which remain candidates are however asked to supply additional information each year, by 15 January, about their European activities during the year.

Article 8

Applicant municipalities undertake to respect and apply the provisions of presentation referred to in the regulations. Prize-winning municipalities shall endeavour to establish close contacts amongst themselves (Association of Towns awarded the Europe Prize), notably by meeting together periodically in one of their member municipalities.

Article 9

9.1 The part of the meeting in which the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize selects the winners for the European Diploma, the Flag of Honour, and the Plaque of Honour and shortlists the three candidate municipalities for the Europe Prize shall be held in camera. The same applies to the part of the meeting during which the plenary committee selects the winning municipality for the Europe Prize.

9.2. For the selection of the winning municipality of the Europe Prize:

9.2.1. The Sub-Committee shall vote, by secret ballot,[1] for the three nominees to be shortlisted from the list of maximum six candidate municipalities preselected by the Secretariat upon the instructions of the Sub-Committee's Bureau. The decision shall be taken by a relative majority. After the counting of the votes cast,

1. The procedure set under paragraph 2 of the Rules on voting by secret ballot in Committees (approved by the Bureau of the Assembly on 27 November 2008) shall apply.

the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee shall present the list of the three nominated municipalities for the Prize. In case of a tie resulting in more than three candidate municipalities, a subsequent vote shall be held according to the same modalities.

9.2.2. The Sub-Committee then forwards the list of the three candidate municipalities for the Europe Prize to the plenary committee which shall designate the Prize-winning municipality. The vote shall be taken by secret ballot and the decision shall be taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast. If the absolute majority is not reached, a second round of voting shall be organised, in which a simple majority shall be sufficient.

9.3. For the other awards (European Diploma, Flag of Honour, Plaque of Honour), the vote shall be taken by show of hands.

Appendix 2 – Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2024

Body / *Organe*	**Reference / *référence***	**Members / *membres***	**Substitutes / *remplaçant·e·s***
I. Council of Europe bodies / *Organes du Conseil de l'Europe*			
European Commission for Democracy through Law Venice Commission *Commission européenne pour la démocratie par le droit Commission de Venise*	Article 2.4 of the Venice Commission StatuteRes(2002)3 *Article 2.4 du statut de la Commission de Venise*Res(2002)3	**Tiny KOX** Netherlands / *Pays-Bas* UEL / *GUE* (appointment by the President) *(désignation par le/la Président·e)* **Antonio GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES** Spain / *Espagne* SOC (AS/Jur)	**Sergiy VLASENKO** Ukraine EPP/CD / *PPE/DC* (AS/Jur)
Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission *Conseil des élections démocratiques de la Commission de Venise*	Bureau decision of 10 March 2003 Décision du Bureau *du 10 mars 2003*	**Michael Georg LINK** Germany / *Allemagne* ALDE / *ADLE* (AS/Pol) **Pablo HISPÁN** Spain / *Espagne* EPP/CD / *PPE/DC* (AS/Jur) **Laura CASTEL** Spain / *Espagne* UEL / *GUE* (AS/Mon)	**Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC** Romania / *Roumanie* EPP/CD / *PPE/DC* AS/Pol) **Octavie MODERT** Luxembourg EPP/CD / *PPE/DC* (AS/Jur) **Blerina GJYLAMETI** Albania / *Albanie* SOC (AS/Mon)
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North-South Centre *Centre européen pour l'interdépendance et la solidarité mondiales – Centre Nord-Sud*	Article 4.2 (b) of the North-South Centre revised StatuteCM/Res(2011)6 *Article 4.2 (b) du statut révisé du Centre Nord-Sud*CM/Res(2011)6	**Edite ESTRELA** Portugal SOC (AS/Cult) **Stefan SCHENNACH** Austria / *Autriche* SOC (AS/Soc)	**Eka SEPASHVILI** Georgia / *Géorgie* EC/DA / *CE/AD* (AS/Cult) **Carmen LEYTE** Spain / *Espagne* EPP/CD / *PPE/DC* (AS/Soc)
European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance ECRI *Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance ECRI*	Article 5 of the ECRI Statute Res(2002)8 *Article 5 du statut de l'ECRI* Res(2002)8	**Max LUCKS** Germany / *Allemagne* SOC (AS/Pol) **Mia KARAMEHIĆ-ABAZOVIĆ** Bosnia and Herzegovina / *Bosnie-Herzégovine* NR / *NI* (AS/Cult) **Petra BAYR** Austria / *Autriche* SOC (AS/Ega)	**Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT** Türkiye NR / *NI* (AS/Pol) ZZ (AS/Cult) **Fourat BEN CHIKHA** Belgium / *Belgique* SOC (AS/Ega)
Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) *Groupe d'états contre la corruption (GRECO)*	CM decision of 717th meeting in 2000 in accordance with Article 7.2 of the Statute of the GRECO *Décision du CM lors de la 717ème réunion en 2000 selon l'Article 7.2. du Statut du GRECO*	**Agnes Sirkka PRAMMER** Austria / *Autriche* SOC (AS/Jur)	**Elena-Simona SPĂTARU** Romania / *Roumanie* ALDE / *ADLE* (AS/Jur)
Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI)*Comité d'expert·e·s sur l'intelligence artificielle, l'égalité et la discrimination* (GEC/ADI-AI)	CM/Res(2021)3	**Mireille CLAPOT** France ALDE / *ADLE* (AS/Ega)	
Committee for Works of Art (C-ART) *Comité des œuvres d'art*(C-ART)	CM decision of 482nd meeting in 1992 *Décision du CM lors de la 482ème réunion en 1992*	**Constantinos EFSTATHIOU** Cyprus / *Chypre* SOC (AS/Cult)	**David MORRIS** United Kingdom / *Royaume-Uni* EC/DA / *CE/AD* (AS/Cult)
MONEYVAL	Article 4.1 of Resolution CM/Res (2010) 12 *Article 4.1 de la Résolution CM/Res (2010) 12*	**Maria-Gabriela HORGA** Romania / *Roumanie* EPP/CD / *PPE/DC* (AS/Jur)	**Klotilda BUSHKA** Albania / *Albanie* SOC (AS/Jur)

Committee of Experts on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (PC-ENV) *Comité d'experts sur la protection de l'environnement par le droit pénal (PC-ENV)*	CM/Res(2021)3	**Constantinos EFSTATHIOU** Cyprus / *Chypre* SOC (AS/Jur) **Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA** Ukraine ALDE / *ADLE* (AS/Soc)	ZZ (AS/Jur) **Stefan SCHENNACH** Austria / *Autriche* SOC (AS/Soc)
Committee on offences relating to cultural property (PC-IBC) / Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) *Comité sur les infractions visant les biens culturels (PC-IBC) / Comité directeur de la culture, du patrimoine et du paysage (CDCPP)*	STCE n° 221 CM(2017)32, Chapter V, Article 23.1 SG/ Inf(2012)12	**Stefan SCHENNACH** Austria / *Autriche* SOC (AS/Cult)	
II. Others / *Autres*			
EUROPA NOSTRA Pan-European Federation for Heritage*EUROPA NOSTRA – Fédération paneuropéenne du patrimoine*	Article 21.4 of the Statute of Europa Nostra	**Luz MARTINEZ SEIJO** Spain / *Espagne* SOC (AS/Cult)	**Andries GRYFFROY** Belgium / *Belgique* NR / *NI* (AS/Cult)