Parliamentary Assembly
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Recommendation 2287 (2024)[1]

Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its Resolution 2579 (2024) "Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement", the Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the strong endorsement of the role of civil society contained in the Reykjavik Declaration, which was adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (16-17 May 2023). The Assembly also welcomes the call by the heads of State and government for a review and for the further reinforcement of the Organisation's outreach to, and meaningful engagement with, civil society organisations and national human rights institutions. The Assembly informs the Committee of Ministers of its intention to play a leading role in this context, by reviewing and further reinforcing its own outreach to, and meaningful engagement with, these groups, while ensuring that this engagement is transparent.

2. The Assembly also welcomes the "Secretary General's Roadmap on the Council of Europe's Engagement with Civil Society 2024-2027" as a positive step in the follow-up to the Reykjavik Declaration.

3. The Assembly intends to ensure that the work of all interest representatives who engage with the Assembly is covered by a code of conduct. The Assembly further notes that the road map envisages the preparation of a "single, harmonised code of conduct for the Organisation's engagement with civil society". The Assembly recognises the benefit of such a code of conduct and, moreover, the importance for any code of conduct to regulate the work of interest representatives as a whole (including lobbyists for commercial interests), rather than being limited to civil society.

4. Finally, the Assembly welcomes the proposals contained in the road map for practical measures to reinforce the Organisation's outreach to, and meaningful engagement with, civil society. The Assembly further welcomes the Committee of Ministers' decision of 13 December 2023, which instructs the Secretariat to prepare an implementation plan for the meaningful participation of civil society, to be presented to the Committee of Ministers by the end of 2024.

1. *Text adopted by the Standing Committee*, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 29 November 2024 (see Doc. 16067, report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, rapporteur: Ms Azadeh Rojhan)