Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 16198 Add. 1
23 June 2025

Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (23 June 2025)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Mr Frank SCHWABE, Germany, Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group

1. Decisions of the Bureau of 23 June 2025 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

– *Facilitating economic recovery and resilience of Ukraine: from voluntary returns to enhanced co-operation and investment,* Doc. 16160, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;

– *Political pluralism and democracy undermined in Bulgaria,* Doc. 16161, motion for a resolution: reference 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 preparation of the report on "Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria"*;

– *Guaranteeing the right to access to drinking water,* Doc. 16162, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;

– *Upholding our diverse culture, freedom of expression and information by effective enforcement of copyright*, Doc. 16165, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*.

1.2. Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights

The Bureau took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights following interviews with candidates for the post of a judge in respect of the United Kingdom, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report (Doc. 16198 Add. 2).

1.3. Issues raised by committees

1.3.1. Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

The Bureau considered and approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine (Appendix 1).

1.4. Composition of the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

On the basis of a proposal by the European Conservatives, Patriots & Affiliates Group, the Bureau nominated Mr Malte Kaufmann (Germany) as a member.

On the basis of a proposal by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, the Bureau nominated Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic) as a member.

On the basis of a proposal by the Group of the Unified European Left, the Bureau nominated Mr Vlad Batrîncea (Republic of Moldova) as a member.

1.5. Conference on Artificial Intelligence, London, 15-16 December 2025

The Bureau decided to set up an *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau to participate in this event, with the following composition: CULT: 6; POL: 6; JUR: 5; EGA: 5; SOC:5; MIG: 5; MON: 4; CDH: 2; RUL: 2.

1.6. Resolution 2530 (2024) on a democratic future for Belarus

The Bureau approved the revised list of members of the representative delegation of Belarusian democratic forces for 2025:

Members:

– Mr Pavel Latushka (Leader of the "Latushka Team and Movement for Freedom" faction)

– Ms Alexandra Mamaeva (faction "European Choice") – Chair of the delegation

– Ms Marharyta Vorykhava (faction "Youth Act")

Substitutes:

– Mr Valery Matskevich (faction "European Choice")

– Mr Pavel Tereshkovich (faction "Nasha Sprava/Belarusian Christian Democrats")

– Ms Olga Karpushonak (faction "Enough of Fear")

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

2. Other decisions by the Bureau

2.1. Third part-session of 2025 (Strasbourg, 23-27 June)

2.1.1. Requests for debates under urgent procedure

The Bureau took note:

– of the request tabled by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination: *Women's rights in Europe – Progress and challenges*: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and to refer the matter to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination for report;

– of the request tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: *Halting the genocide in Gaza – The Council of Europe must act now*: decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;

– of the request tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: *The urgent need to put an end to the war in Gaza*: decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;

– of the request tabled by the political groups: *Global peace under threat: halting the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and addressing the wider conflict in the Middle-East:* decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and to refer the matter to the Committee on Political Affairs and democracy for report and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons for opinion;

2.1.2. Requests for current affairs debates

The Bureau took note:

– of the request tabled by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group: *A call for immediate release of persons facing politically motivated persecution in Georgia*: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Mr Stephen Gethins (United Kingdom, ALDE) as the first speaker;

– of the request tabled by Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC) and 21 members of the Parliamentary Assembly: *Attempts to undermine the European Convention on Human Rights and to attack the independence and impartiality of the European Court of Human Rights through political interference*: decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;

– of the request tabled by the political groups: *The European Court of Human Rights: Rising to the challenges of our times*: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, ECPA) as the first speaker.

2.1.3. Draft agenda

The Bureau updated the agenda of the part-session.

2.1.4. Joint Committee

The Bureau prepared the meeting of the Joint Committee.

2.2. Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (11 April – 22 June 2025)

The Bureau approved the Progress report (Doc. 16198).

2.3. Election observation

2.3.1. Albania: parliamentary elections (11 May 2025)

The Bureau approved the observation report of the parliamentary elections.

2.3.2. Poland: presidential election (18 May 2025)

The Bureau took note of the statement on the second round of the presidential election (1 June 2025).

2.3.3. Republic of Moldova: parliamentary elections (28 September 2025)

The Bureau approved the list of members of the *ad hoc* committee to observe these elections (Appendix 2).

2.4. Follow-up to Resolution 2594 (2025) on "Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure"

The Bureau took note of the modalities to implement the recent changes to the appointments of Vice-Presidents of the Assembly and of General Rapporteurs provided in the memorandum presented by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly.

2.5. Extensions of references

The Bureau approved the following extensions of references:

– *The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms,* Doc. 15569, motion for a resolution, reference 4673 of 10 October 2022 (extended on 28 June 2024) – validity: 10 October 2025: extension until 10 October 2026;

– *The role of youth in revitalising democracy*, Doc. 15756, motion for a resolution, reference 4746 of 19 June 2023 (extended on 31 January 2025) – validity: 30 June 2025: extension until 31 December 2025;

– *Shaping the Parliamentary Assembly's relations with the United Nations Human Rights Council*, Doc. 15807, motion for a resolution, reference 4766 of 9 October 2023 – validity: 9 October 2025: extension until 9 October 2026;

– *Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*, Doc. 15810, motion for a resolution, reference 4768 of 9 October 2023 – validity: 9 October 2025: extension until 9 October 2026.

2.6. Communications

The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Assembly and held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Appendix 1 – Revised Terms of Reference for the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine

Duration: June 2024 – 31 December 2025

In accordance with the Bureau decision of 7 March 2024 to invite the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to consider the setting-up of a Network on the Situation of the Children of Ukraine in the framework of the follow-up and implementation of paragraph 26 of Resolution 2529 (2024) on "the situation of the children of Ukraine", the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe shall be constituted in the June 2024 part-session of the Assembly under the auspices of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

The terms of reference of the Network were adopted by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at its meeting on 3 June 2024 for transmission to the Bureau of the Assembly.

Aim of the Network

1. In accordance with Resolution 2529 (2024), it is the task of the Network to provide support to the Assembly "to continue its role as a facilitator (…) to support the Ukrainian authorities and various international organisations, such as UNICEF, the UNHCR, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other competent United Nations agencies, and the ICRC, in determining the most rapid means to identify and facilitate an effective search for children, with access to as much information as possible about their identity and the conditions of their deportation or forcible transfer by the Russian Federation."

In particular, as a platform of exchange, the Network should:

– facilitate the coordination between Ukrainian authorities, international organisations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders

– facilitate the rapid and effective implementation of existing mechanisms and contribute to finding new mechanisms, as appropriate, for the identification, tracing and repatriation of deported Ukrainian children

– ensure that returned Ukrainian children are smoothly reintegrated

– promote the protection of the rights of displaced and refugee Ukrainian children

– ensure promotion and dissemination of Council of Europe standards and of Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU) tools and deliverables

– support the access of Ukrainian children to education and healthcare, including treatment and psychological support for those affected by war.

Composition of the Network

2. The Network shall be composed of:

2.1. In respect of the 46 member States of the Council of Europe: for each unicameral parliament, one titular and one substitute member of parliament, appointed by their national delegation; for each for bicameral parliament, one titular and one substitute member of each chamber of the parliament, appointed by their national delegation.

2.2. In respect of the parliaments with Observer or Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: one member of each national delegation, appointed by the national delegation.

2.3. **Three members** appointed by **each of** the following Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly:

– Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

– Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

– Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

– Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

– Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

– Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination.

2.4. One associate member appointed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

3. The members of the Bureau of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the chairpersons of political groups and the President of the Assembly, shall be *ex officio* members of the Network.

Working methods of the Network

4. In terms of the application of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Network shall be assimilated to a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. All members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development shall be entitled to attend the Network's meetings.

5. The working languages of the Network shall be English and French.

6. The Network shall hold its first meeting during the 2024 fourth part-session of the Assembly (30 September – 4 October), with the President of the Assembly in the Chair and shall elect its Bureau amongst its members on this occasion.

7. In fulfilling its task set out in paragraph 1 of these terms of reference, the Network shall be inspired by international and European treaties, United Nations declarations and reports, and texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly, in particular those related to the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

8. The Network may co-operate with parliamentarians and national parliaments outside of Europe, as well as parliamentary networks and regional and international parliamentary assemblies.

9. The Network may rely on the "Bring Kids Back UA" initiative and on information sharing with Ukrainian civil society.

10. The Network shall endeavour to limit its environmental impact.

Appendix 2 – List of members of the ad hoc committee to observe the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova (28 September 2025)

Chairperson / Président·e: ZZ

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

– Ms / M^me^ Edite ESTRELA, Portugal
– Mr / M. Gerardo GIOVAGNOLI, San Marino / Saint-Marin*
– Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France
– Ms / M^me^ Luz MARTINEZ SEIJO, Spain / Espagne
– Ms / M^me^ Wanda NOWICKA, Poland / Pologne
– Mr / M. Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria / Autriche

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Ms / M^me^ Sibel ARSLAN, Switzerland / Suisse
– Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Norway / Norvège
– Mr / M. Christophe CHAILLOU, France
– Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Türkiye
– Ms / M^me^ Aurora FLORIDIA, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Antonio GUTIERREZ LIMONES, Spain / Espagne
– Ms / M^me^ Bisera KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJEVSKA, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
– Mr / M. Roberto SPERANZA, Italy / Italie

Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)

– ZZ
– ZZ
– ZZ
– ZZ
– ZZ
– ZZ

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Ms / M^me^ Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER, Austria / Autriche
– Mr / M. Cristian-Augustin NICULESCU- ȚÂGÂRLAȘ, Romania / Roumanie*
– Ms / M^me^ Marija PETRUSHEVSKA, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
– Mr / M. Giorgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce
– Ms / M^me^ Albana VOKSHI, Albania / Albanie*

European Conservatives, Patriots & Affiliates (ECPA) / Conservateurs européens, Patriotes et Affiliés (CEPA)

– Mr / M. Simone BILLI, Italy / Italie
– Ms / M^me^ Elisabetta GARDINI, Italy / Italie*
– Mr / M. Armen GEVORYAN, Armenia / Arménie

– Mr / M. Malte KAUFMANN, Germany / Allemagne

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

– Mr / M. Mehmet AKALIN, Türkiye
– Ms / M^{me} Louise MOREL, France
– Ms / M^{me} Lucia PLAVAKOVA, Slovak Republic / République slovaque*

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Mr / M. Iulian BULAI, Romania / Roumanie
– Ms / M^{me} Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie
– Ms / M^{me} Liliana TANGUY, France

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

– ZZ

* Pre-electoral mission / mission préélectorale