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Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (20 April 2026)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Mr Pablo HISPÁN, Spain, Group of the European People's Party

1. Decisions of the Bureau of 20 April 2026 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

– *Fulfilling and respecting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,* Doc. 16340, motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Situation in the Middle East";*

– *Protecting lakes as natural and cultural heritage and as a strategic resource for people in the face of the triple planetary crisis*, Doc. 16342, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*;

– *Towards a Euro-Atlantic strategy for the Arctic in support of the rules-based international order,* Doc. 16348, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;

– *A more democratic review of the process for electing the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*, Doc. 16350, motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities *for information*;

– *Measures to combat the rise in sexual and domestic violence against children and women in Europe*, Doc. 16351, motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for information*;

– *Attacks on the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe: a threat to democracy*¸ Doc. 16354, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report;*

– *Remittances by migrant workers and diasporas and their benefits for countries of origin and host countries*, Doc. 16355, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation *for report*;

– *Unaccompanied foreign minors in the context of migration: the need for common standards in full respect of children's rights*, Doc. 16356, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation *for report*;

– *Peace and security in the emerging global order*, Doc. 16357, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;

– *The security of critical infrastructure as a pillar of democratic stability in Europe*, Doc. 16358, motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report;*

– *Strengthening safeguards against the misuse of dual-use goods by authoritarian regimes*, Doc. 16359, request for an opinion from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

– *Addressing culture as a foundation for the democratisation of Belarus*: Doc. 16364, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*;

– *Food challenges and responses: the experience of Morocco,* Doc. 16365, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;

– *A strong response to the Epstein files: ensuring full transparency and accountability,* Doc. 16381, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report.*

1.2. Composition of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

On the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, the Bureau nominated Ms Regina BASTOS (Portugal) as a member.

1.3. Resolution 2094 (2016) on the situation in Kosovo and the role of the Council of Europe*

The Bureau took note of the letter by the President of the Assembly of Kosovo* informing the President of the Assembly of the names of the members of the delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo* for the 2025 ordinary session and approved the list of the delegation:

Members:

– Mr Ardian Gola, Self-Determination Movement, Head of Delegation

– Ms Vlora Çitaku, Democratic Party of Kosovo

– Ms Emilija Redžepi, Parliamentary Group “Multiethnic”

Substitutes:

– Ms Jehona Lushaku, Democratic League of Kosovo

– Mr Besnik Tahiri, Alliance for the Future of Kosovo

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

2. Other decisions by the Bureau

2.1. Second part-session of 2026 (Strasbourg, 20-24 April)

2.1.1. Requests for debates under urgent procedure

The Bureau took note:

– of the request to hold a debate on *Request for opinion on the draft additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism*: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and to refer the matter to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report;

– of the request to hold a debate on *Suspension of Israel’s observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in light of systemic violations of international law*: decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;

– of the request to hold a debate on A*ddressing Israel’s death penalty law in Occupied Palestinian territories in the context of Council of Europe standards*: decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate.

2.1.2. Request for current affairs debate

The Bureau took note:

– of the request of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group to hold a current affairs debate on *Accountability and justice: a call to step up efforts for the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine*: decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC) as first speaker;

– of the request of the leaders of the five political groups to hold a current affairs debate on *The need for the respect of international law, peace and stability in broader Middle East:* decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) as first speaker

2.1.3. Draft agenda

The Bureau updated the draft agenda of the part-session.

2.1.4. Joint Committee (Strasbourg, 20 April 2026)

The Bureau prepared the meeting of the Joint Committee.

2.1.5. Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (30 January 2026– 19 April 2026)

The Bureau approved the Progress report (Doc. 16377).

2.2. Election observation

2.2.1. Assembly of Kosovo[1]: early elections (28 December 2025)

The Bureau approved the report of the observation mission (Doc. 16380).

2.2.2. Hungary: parliamentary elections (12 April 2026)

The Bureau took note of the statement of the delegation.

2.2.3. Armenia: parliamentary elections (7 June 2026)

The Bureau approved the revised list of members (Appendix 1).

2.3. References and transmissions to committees

– *A strong response to the Epstein files: ensuring full transparency and accountability,* Doc. 16381, motion for a resolution: decided to refer it to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report,* and to invite the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to contribute to its preparation.

2.4. Extensions of references

The Bureau approved the following extensions of references:

– *Violent pornography,* Doc. 15972, motion for a resolution, reference 4809 of 19 April 2024 – validity: 19 April 2026: extension until 30 June 2026;

– *Artificial intelligence and gender equality: risks and challenges*, motion for a resolution, reference 4816 of 24 June 2024 - validity: 24 June 2026: extension until 24 December 2026.

1. 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

2.5. Meeting of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2026

The Bureau approved the proposals contained in the document.

2.6. Issued raised by committees

2.6.1. Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

The Bureau took note of the Committee's decision to discontinue the mandate of the General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport.

2.6.2. Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

The Bureau accepted to extend the additional rights granted to the Partner for Democracy delegation of Morocco for the 2025 session of the Assembly, as provided in sub-paragraphs 65.7.a to 65.7.e. of the Rules of Procedure, to the 2026 session of the Assembly.

2.7. Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2026

The Bureau approved the proposals contained in the document.

2.8. Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau approved the proposals contained in the document.

2.9. Communications

The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Assembly and the oral communication by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Appendix – Revised list of members of the ad hoc Committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Armenia (7 June 2026)

Chairperson / Président: Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse

Vice-Chairperson / Président: Lord David BLENCATHRA, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

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

– Mr / M. Christophe CHAILLOU, France
– Mr / M. Cerni ESCALE CABLE, Andorra / Andorre
– Ms / M^{me} Edite ESTRELA, Portugal
– Mr / M. Dimitrios MANTZOS, Greece / Grèce
– Ms / M^{me} Luz MARTINEZ SEIJO, Spain / Espagne
– Ms / M^{me} Wanda NOWICKA, Poland / Pologne
– Mr / M. Roberto SPERANZA, Italy / Italie*

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Mr / M. Jone BLIKRA, Norway / Norvège
– Mr / M. Nuno FAZENDA, Portugal
– Ms / M^{me} Aurora FLORIDIA, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Julien JOSWIG, Germany / Allemagne
– Ms / M^{me} Marietta KARAMANLI, France
– Ms / M^{me} Bisera KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
– Ms / M^{me} Saskia KLUIT, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
– Ms / M^{me} Annick LAMBRECHT, Belgium / Belgique
– Mr / M. Didier MARIE, France
– Mr / M. Yvan RACAN, Croatia / Croatie
– Mr / M. Namik TAN, Türkiye

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

– Mr / M. Ricardo CARVALHO, Portugal
– Ms / M^{me} Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER, Austria / Autriche
– Mr / M. Tekke PANMAN, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
– Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce*
– ZZ

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Mr / M. Joseph O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande
– Ms / M^{me} Albana VOKSHI, Albania / Albanie

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

– Lord David BLENCATHRA, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
– Mr / M. Malte KAUFMANN, Germany / Allemagne*

– Mr / M. Zsolt NÉMETH, Hungary / Hongrie
– Ms / M^me^ Victoria TIBLOM, Sweden / Suède

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Ms / M^me^ Alicia KEARNS, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
– Mr / M. José María SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA, Spain / Espagne

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

– Mr / M. Olivier BITZ, France
– Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse*
– Ms / M^me^ Lesia ZABURANNA, Ukraine

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Ms / M^me^ Valentina GRIPPO, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie
– Ms / M^me^ Liliana TANGUY, France
– Ms / M^me^ Tamila TASHEVA, Ukraine
– Ms / M^me^ Ryan VOGELS, Netherlands, Pays-Bas

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

Ms / M^me^ Laura CASTEL, Spain / Espagne*

Co-rapporteur·es AS/MON (ex officio)

– Ms / M^me^ Boriana ÅBERG (Sweden, Suède / EPP/CD / PPE/DC)*
– Mr / M. Piero FASSINO (Italy, Italie / SOC)*

Accompanying person

– Lady Tara BLENCATHRA, accompanying Lord David BLENCATHRA

* Pre-electoral mission / mission préélectorale