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Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (24 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 24 April 2026 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

– Children without identity in Europe and around the world: a crucial challenge for fundamental rights, Doc. 16205, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;

– *Preventing and combating vicarious violence as a form of gender-based violence against women,* Doc. 16366, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion;*

– *The impact of artificial intelligence on the lives of older persons: opportunities, risks and policy responses,* Doc. 16367, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report;*

– *Social media platforms, women and girls: harnessing democratic potential while safeguarding fundamental rights,* Doc. 16369, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report;*

– *Democratic security in the Western Balkans*, Doc. 16376, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;

– *Out-of-country voting*, Doc. 16378, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report;*

– *Bureau decision: The activities of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB),* motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation *for report;*

– *Bureau decision*: Resolution (2648) *Procedure for the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights*: reference to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities *for report* on Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

1.2. Composition of the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities

On the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, the Bureau nominated Ms Albana VOKSHI (Albania) as a member.

1.3. Elections observation

1.3.1. Kazakhstan: Early parliamentary elections (August 2026, date to be confirmed)

The Bureau decided, subject to receiving an invitation, to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 11 members (SOC-3; EPP/CD-3; ECPA-2; ALDE-2; UEL-1).

1.3.2. Morocco: parliamentary elections (23 September 2026)

The Bureau decided, subject to receiving an invitation, to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee, to decide on its composition at its next meeting, and to conduct a pre-electoral mission.

1.3.3. Bosnia and Herzegovina: general elections (4 October 2026)

The Bureau decided, subject to receiving an invitation, to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-7; EPP/CD-5; ECPA-4; ALDE-3; UEL-1), as well as the two co-rapporteurs of the monitoring committee, and to conduct a pre-electoral mission.

1.4. 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty (Paris, 30 June-2 July 2026)

The Bureau took note of the letter by the chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in this event, which should be composed of up to three members from each of the Assembly's committees.

1.5. Issues raised by committees

1.5.1. Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

The Bureau approved the terms of reference of the General Rapporteur on Latin America (Appendix 1).

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

2. Other decisions by the Bureau

2.1. Follow-up to the second part-session of 2026 (Strasbourg, 20-24 April)

The Bureau approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly:

– follow up to Assembly Resolution 2651 (2026) "*Towards the universal abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances*": invited the President of the Assembly to ask for an Opinion of the Venice Commission on the Death Penalty for Terrorists Law adopted by the Knesset on 30 March 2026, as well as on the Prosecution of Participants in the October 7 Massacre Events Bill, 5786-2025, adopted at its first reading by the Knesset on 13 January 2026;

– follow up to the current affairs debate on *"Accountability and justice: a call to step up efforts for the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine*": reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on Accountability for the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine*;

– follow up to the current affairs debate on *"The need for the respect of international law, peace and stability in the broader Middle East"*: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on the Situation in the Middle East*.

2.2. Meeting of the Standing Committee in Monaco (21 May 2026)

2.2.1. Request for a debate under urgent procedure

The Bureau took note of the request to hold a debate under the urgent procedure on *Restructuring and streamlining of the Rules of Procedure,* and decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this debate and to refer the matter to the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities.

2.2.2. Draft agenda

The Bureau took note of the draft agenda of the Standing Committee.

2.2.3. Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (20 April 2026-21 June 2026)

The Bureau appointed Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) as rapporteur.

2.3. Election observation

2.3.1. Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (19 April 2026)

The Bureau took note of the statement of the delegation.

2.3.2. Armenia: parliamentary elections (7 June 2026)

The Bureau approved the revised list of members (Appendix 2).

2.3.3. Joint debate co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional authorities and the Venice Commission on "Towards Reliable and Inclusive Electoral Processes: The Role of Observers" (Paris, 28-29 April 2026), as a contribution to the New Democratic Pact

The Bureau approved the revised list of members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in this event (Appendix 3).

2.4. Extension of a reference

The Bureau approved the following extension of reference:

– *Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media,* Doc. 15975, motion for a resolution, Reference 4812 of 24 May 2024 – validity: 24 May 2026: extension until 30 June 2026.

2.5. Black Sea Security Forum (Odesa, 29-31 May 2026)

The Bureau approved the members list of the *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau to participate in this event (Appendix 4).

2.6. Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2026

The Bureau approved the proposals contained in the document.

2.7. Budgetary matters – Analysis of the use made by the Assembly's political groups of their allocations for 2025

The Bureau approved the draft communication submitted by the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities.

2.8. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

The Bureau took note of the prolongation, until 30 June 2026, of the deadline to submit candidatures to the 2026 edition of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize.

2.9. Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau approved the proposals contained in the document.

Appendix 1 – Terms of reference of the General Rapporteur on Latin America

Denomination: General Rapporteur on Latin America

Term of office: two years, renewable once (Rule 50.7 of the Rules of Procedure)

Mandate: the general rapporteur on Latin America ensures the visibility and coherence of the Assembly's action aimed at strengthening relations with Latin American national parliaments and regional organisations.

Responsibilities: taking into account Assembly Resolution 2603 (2025) and Recommendation 2296 (2025), the role of the general rapporteur is to:

– *act as a focal point for the Assembly to strengthen relations and pursue a two-way dialogue between the Assembly and national parliaments and regional organisations in Latin America;*

– *enhance the capacity of the Assembly to identify, address and react to relevant political developments in Latin America, particularly with regard to the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the countries of the region;*

– *enhance the external outreach of the work of the Assembly relevant for Latin America, and contribute to the visibility of the work of the Council of Europe in the region;*

– *work and co-ordinate actions with the other Assembly's general rapporteurs and rapporteurs, as appropriate;*

– *liaise with the Council of Europe organs and bodies conducting work involving Latin American countries and regional organisations, follow their relevant activities, and represent the Assembly, as appropriate;*

– *follow the activities of and maintain relations with bodies in Council of Europe member and observer States that pursue dialogue with Latin American countries and regional organisations;*

– *follow the activities of and maintain relations with relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations, the European Union, the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, the Organization of American States, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, as well as with other international governmental and inter-parliamentary organisations;*

– *in appropriate cases, make public statements, launch appeals, or propose to do so to the Committee.*

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

Appendix 2 – 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 / Vice-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 / Mme Edite ESTRELA, Portugal
– Mr / M. Dimitrios MANTZOS, Greece / Grèce
– Ms / Mme Luz MARTINEZ SEIJO, Spain / Espagne
– Ms / Mme 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 / Mme Aurora FLORIDIA, Italy / Italie
– Mr / M. Julien JOSWIG, Germany / Allemagne
– Ms / Mme Marietta KARAMANLI, France
– Ms / Mme Bisera KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA, North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
– Ms / Mme Saskia KLUIT, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
– Ms / Mme 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 / Mme Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER, Austria / Autriche
– Mr / M. Tekke PANMAN, Netherlands / Pays-Bas
– Mr / M. Georgios STAMATIS, Greece / Grèce*
– Ms / Mme Albana VOKSHI, Albania / Albanie

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Ms / Mme Nada LAKOVIĆ, Montenegro / Monténégro
– Mr / M. Joseph O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande

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 / Mme Victoria TIBLOM, Sweden / Suède

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

– Ms / Mme 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. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse*
– Ms / Mme Lesia ZABURANNA, Ukraine
– ZZ

Substitutes / Suppléant·es

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

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

– Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL, Spain / Espagne*

Co-rapporteur.es AS/MON (ex officio)

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

Accompanying person / Personne accompagnante

– Lady Tara BLENCATHRA, accompanying Lord David BLENCATHRA

* Pre-electoral mission / mission préélectorale

Appendix 3 – Revised list of members of the ad hoc Committee to participate in the joint debate co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional authorities and the Venice Commission on "Towards Reliable and Inclusive Electoral Processes: The Role of Observers" (Paris, 28-29 April 2026), as a contribution to the New Democratic Pact

Chairperson / Présidente: Ms / Mme Petra BAYR (Austria / Autriche, SOC)

President of the Parliamentary Assembly / Présidente de l'Assemblée parlementaire: Ms / Mme Petra BAYR (Austria / Autriche, SOC)

Members of the Presidential committee / membres du comité présidentiel

– Mr / M. Frank SCHWABE (Germany / Allemagne, SOC) **
– Mr / M. Pablo HISPÁN (Spain / Espagne, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)
– Mr / M. Zsolt NÉMETH (Hungary/ Hongrie, ECPA /CEPA)**
– Mr / M. Iulian BULAI (Romania / Roumanie, ALDE / ADLE)**
– Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL (Spain / Espagne, UEL / GUE)**
– Mr / Mr George LOUCAIDES (Cyprus / Chypre, UEL / GUE)**

Parliamentary Alliance for Free and Fair Elections / Alliance parlementaire pour des élections libres et équitables

Bureau of the Alliance / Bureau de l'Alliance

– Chairperson / Président Lord David BLENCATHRA (United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni, ECPA / CEPA)
– Mr / M. Didier MARIE (France, SOC)**
– Ms / Mme Catia POLIDORI (Italy / Italie, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)
– Mr / M. Claude KERN (France, ALDE / ADLE)
– Ms / Mme Sevilay ÇELENK (Türkiye, UEL / GUE)

Members of the Alliance / membres de l'Alliance

– Mr / M. Christophe CHAILLOU (France, SOC)
– Mr / M. Yunus EMRE (Türkiye, SOC)
– Mr / M. Yuriy KAMELCHUK (Ukraine, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)
– Ms / Mme Alicia KEARNS (United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni, ECPA /CEPA)
– Mr / M. Jan Filip LIBICKI (Poland / Pologne, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)
– Mr / M. Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnie-Herzégovine / SOC)*
– Mr / M. Chris SAID (Malta / Malte / EPP/CD / PPE/DC)*
– Mr / M. Georgio STAMATIS (Greece / Grèce / EPP/CD / PPE/DC)*
– Ms / Mme Maria SYRENGELA (Greece / Grèce / EPP/CD / PPE/DC)* **
– Mr / M. Francesco VERDUCCI (Italy / Italie, SOC)
– Ms / Mme Albana VOKSHI (Albania / Albanie, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)*

Council for Democratic Elections (CDE) of the Council of Europe / Conseil des Elections Démocratiques (CED) du Conseil de l'Europe

CDE Members / membres du CED

– AS/Mon: Ms / Mme Laura CASTEL (Spain / Espagne, UEL/GUE)**

– AS/Jur: Mr / M. Pablo HISPAN (Spain / Espagne, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)

– AS/Pol: Ms / Mme Rian VOGELS (Netherlands / Pays-Bas, ALDE/ALDE)

CDE Substitutes / suppléant·es du CED

– AS/Pol: Lord David BLENCATHRA (United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni, ECPA/CEPA)

– AS/Jur: Ms / Mme Bisera KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA (North Macedonia / Macédoine du nord, SOC)

– AS/Mon: Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY (France, ALDE/ADLE)

Bureau of the Special Committee on the New Democratic Pact / Bureau de la commission spéciale sur le Nouveau Pacte Démocratique

Chairperson / Président: Mr / M. Christopher CHOPE (United Kingdom, / Royaume-Uni, ECPA / CEPA)

Vice-Chairpersons / Président·es

– Mr/ M. George PAPANDREOU (Greece / Grèce, SOC)

– Mr / M. Damien COTTIER (Switzerland / Suisse, ALDE / ADLE)**

– Ms / Mme Yelyzaveta YASKO (Ukraine, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)

PACE General rapporteur on Democracy / Rapporteur général de l'APCE sur la démocratie

– Mr / M. George PAPANDREOU (Greece / Grèce, SOC)

PACE Rapporteur on «Elections in times of crisis» / Rapporteur de l'APCE sur «Elections en temps de crise»

– Mr / M Damien COTTIER (Switzerland / Suisse, ALDE / ADLE)**

PACE rapporteur on The need to protect election observers / Rapporteure de l'APCE sur «Nécessité de protéger les observateurs d'élections»

– Ms / Mme Rian VOGELS (The Netherlands / Pays-Bas, ALDE / ADLE)

* A substitute member who became a full member due to a vacant seat / Un membre suppléant devenu membre titulaire à la suite d'une vacance de siège

**Excused / Excusé·e

Appendix 4 – List of members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Black Sea Security Forum, Odesa-Ukraine, 29-31 May 2026

Chairperson / Président·e: ZZ…

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy / Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

– Ms / Mme Deborah BERGAMINI (Italy, EPP/CD / Italie, PPE/DC)
– Ms / Mme Elisabetta GARDINI (Italy, ECPA / Italie, CEPA)
– Mr / M. Yuriy KAMELCHUK (Ukraine, EPP/CD / PPE/DC)

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme

– Mr / M. Titus CORLĂŢEAN (Romania / Roumanie, SOC)
– Mr / M. Ivan RAČAN (Croatia / Croatie, SOC)
– Mr / M. Roberto SPERANZA (Italy / Italie, SOC)

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development / Commission des questions sociales, de la santé, et du développement durable

– Mr / M. Murat Cahid CINGI (Türkiye, NI / NR)
– ZZ…
– ZZ…

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons / Commission des migrations, des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées

– Mr / M. Marco SCURRIA (Italy, ECPA / Italie, CEPA)
– Ms / Mme Larysa BILOZIR (Ukraine, ALDE / ADLE)
– Mr / M. Murat Cahid CINGI (Türkiye, NR / NI)

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media / Commission de la culture, de la science, de l'éducation et des médias

– ZZ…
– ZZ…
– ZZ…

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination

– ZZ…
– ZZ…
– ZZ…

Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities / Commission du Règlement, de l'éthique et des immunités

– ZZ...
– ZZ…

– ZZ…

Special committee on the New Democratic Pact / Commission spéciale sur le Nouveau Pacte Démocratique

– ZZ…

– ZZ…

– ZZ…