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Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (4 October 2024)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Mr Iulian BULAI, Romania, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

1. Decisions of the Bureau of 4 October 2024 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

– *Georgian law on "foreign influence"*, Doc. 16022, 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 "The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia"*;

– *Establishing closer co-operation with Mongolia*, Doc. 16023, motion for a resolution: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for information*;

– *Protecting civilians: urgent action to save civilians in Russian captivity*, Doc. 16029, 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"*;

– *Russian democratic forces*, Doc. 16054, motion for a resolution: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;

– *Updating the Venice Commission Rule of Law Checklist: a contribution by the Assembly*, Doc. 16059, motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*.

1.2. Modification of a reference

– *Analysis and guidelines to guarantee the right to housing and to decent housing*, Doc. 15566, motion for a resolution, Reference 4670 of 10 October 2022 (extended on 30 September 2024) – validity: 10 October 2025*:* reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for opinion*.

1.3. Issues raised by committees

1.3.1. Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

The Bureau considered and approved the terms of reference of the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine (Appendix 1) and of the Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment (Appendix 2).

1.4. Composition of committees

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

On the basis of proposals by the SOC Group, the Bureau nominated as members: Mr Gerardo Giovagnoli (San Marino) and Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (Finland).

On the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, the Bureau nominated Mr Ricardo Carvalho (Portugal) as a member.

On the basis of a proposal by the EC/DA Group, the Bureau nominated Mr Lőrinc Nacsa (Hungary) as a member.

1.4.2. Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

On the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, the Bureau nominated Mr Christophe Brico (Monaco).

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

On the basis of proposals by the EPP/CD Group, the Bureau nominated as members: Ms Regina Bastos (Portugal), Ms Belén Hoyo (Spain) and Ms Saara-Sofia Sirén (Finland).

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

Appendix 1 – Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine

Revised terms of reference

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. One member each appointed by 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 – Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment[1]

Revised terms of reference

Duration: 2022-2027

In accordance with Resolution 2399 (2021) on "the climate crisis and the rule of law", the Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (hereafter, "the Network") was constituted during the January 2022 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 1st December 2021 for transmission to the Bureau of the Assembly. The Committee adopted a revised version at its meeting on 13 September 2024 for transmission to the Bureau.

Aims of the network

1. In accordance with Resolution 2399 (2021) on "the climate crisis and the rule of law", the general aim of the Network is "to inspire and follow the action taken by the national authorities to honour the strong commitments they have made vis-à-vis the climate crisis while fostering the mutual enrichment of ideas and setting up regular opportunities for parliamentarians in Europe and on other continents to pool their experience." To this end, the Network shall be inspired by international and European instruments and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and shall promote the texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly relating to the environment.

2. As a platform for exchanges, the Network shall pursue the following specific goals: work to improve climate governance and to embed and promote the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in treaties, national legislation, public policies, business and public practice and consciousness in Europe and elsewhere.

3. To achieve these goals, the Network shall:

– Raise parliamentarians' awareness of their role in their respective assemblies in connection with the direction, content and funding of environmental policies and the adoption of legislation affecting the environment;

– Inform parliamentarians about developments in the strategies, standards and supervisory mechanisms which exist within the Council of Europe and other relevant bodies regarding human and environmental rights and of their role in helping them to evolve towards better protection of the right to a healthy environment;

– Improve interaction between parliamentarians, representatives of civil society in the broadest sense and climate justice mechanisms.

Composition of the Network

4. The Network shall be composed of:

4.1. In respect of the 46 member States of the Council of Europe: one member of parliament for each unicameral parliament, and one member of each Chamber for bicameral parliaments, appointed by the national parliament or chamber respectively.

4.2. In respect of the parliaments with Observer or Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: one member of parliament for each unicameral parliament, and one member of each Chamber for bicameral parliaments, appointed by the national parliament or chamber respectively.

4.3. One member each appointed by the following Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly:

– Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;

– Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;

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1. Modified title. The original title was: Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a Healthy Environment.

– 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.

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

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

Working methods

6. 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.

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

8. The Network shall elect its Chairperson and its Vice-Chairperson, who shall make up the Bureau. It shall renew its Bureau every two years during the Assembly's first part-session.

9. The Network shall adopt its work programme on an annual basis.

10. The Network shall facilitate synergy and consistency between the Assembly and other Council of Europe sectors involved in environmental work.

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

12. The Network shall endeavour to limit its environmental impact so as to enhance its sustainability.

Funding

13. The Network's projects shall be funded with voluntary contributions from the member States.