



SECRETARIAT

AS/PoI (2026) CB 05  
30 June 2026

## To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### Synopsis

#### of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 22 to 24 June 2026

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 22 to 24 June 2026, with Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, ECPA), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 22 June 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
  - ***Baltic Sea security challenges*** (*rapporteur: Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Finland, SOC*): held a hearing with the online participation of Ms Marija Golubeva, Hertie School Berlin, former Minister of the Interior of Latvia and member of the Latvian Parliament, followed by an exchange of views;
  - ***The security of critical infrastructure as a pillar of democratic stability in Europe*** (*rapporteur: Ms Lesia Ziburanna, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered an outline report, followed by an exchange of views;
  - **Authorisations by the Committee**: authorised:
    - Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), in his capacity as rapporteur on “Democratic security in the Western Balkans”, to carry-out a fact-finding visit to Brussels, on 30 June - 1 July 2026;
    - Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands, SOC), in her capacity as rapporteur on “The convergence of extremist, autocratic and oligarchic threats to democracy in Europe”, to attend the conference “Breaking the Oligarchs’ Grip: The Athens Dialogues”, in Athens, on 1-3 July 2026 (at no cost to the Assembly);
  - **Work programme**:
    - ***Request for the extension of a reference***: agreed to request an extension of one year to the validity of the reference “Shaping the Parliamentary Assembly’s relations with the United Nations Human Rights Council” (*rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL*);
- **on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 8:30**, as regards:
  - ***Democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Iran*** (*rapporteur: Mr Max Lucks, Germany, SOC*): took position on 12 amendments to the draft resolution, and decided to table 3 sub-amendments;
  - ***Suspension of Israel’s observer status*** (*rapporteur: Mr Ricardo Carvalho, Portugal, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the Israeli observer delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly (online);
- **on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
  - ***Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence*** (*rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): took position on 3 amendments to the draft resolution;
  - ***Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*** (*rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur following her fact-finding visit to Kyrgyzstan on 4-6 June 2026, and considered an outline report;

- **Situation in Belarus** (*rappporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur, considered an outline report, followed by an exchange of views;
- **A strong response to the Epstein files: ensuring full transparency and accountability** (*rappporteur: Mr Gustaf Göthberg (Sweden, EPP/CD)*): heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Sub-Committee on External Relations**: heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), and approved his proposal to hold the meeting of the Sub-Committee at the UN Headquarters, in New York, United States, in Autumn 2026, in the margins of the 81st session of UN General Assembly (in accordance with Assembly Order 500 (1994) and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly), and agreed that this meeting would only be open to the members of the Sub-Committee on External Relations;
- **Work programme**: subject to the completion of the obligation to update the declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline:
  - **Rappporteur for report**: appointed, by acclamation, Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) as rapporteur on “Out-of-country voting”;
  - **General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus**: appointed, by acclamation, Mr Gustaf Göthberg (Sweden, EPP/CD) as the General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus;
  - **General Rapporteur on Latin America**: appointed, following a vote, Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC) as the General Rapporteur on Latin America;
- **Reporting back**: heard a statement from Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) about her participation in the 1st meeting of the OECD Parliamentary Group on AI, Paris, 11-12 June 2026;
- **on Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
  - **Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression** (*rappporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
  - **Need to protect election observers** (*rappporteur: Ms Rian Vogels, Netherlands, ALDE*): heard a statement by the rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;
  - **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees**: approved the changes as highlighted in bold in the Appendix;
  - **Work programme**:
    - **Appointment of Committee representatives**: appointed, at no cost to the Assembly:
      - *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the 2026 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 2–3 November): Ms Boriána Åberg (Sweden, EPP/CD) and Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR);
      - *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, 2 August 2026): Mr Márton Hajdu (Hungary, EPP/CD) and Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD);
  - **Reporting back**: heard a statement from Ms Rian Vogels (Netherlands, ALDE) about her participation in the Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission (CDE), Venice, 11 June 2026;

- **Meetings in 2026:** took note of the meetings to be held as follows:
  - Tuesday 8 September 2026, Paris
  - Fourth part-session 2026 (28 September-2 October), Strasbourg
  - 9-11 November 2026 (*tbc*), New York, Sub-Committee on External Relations
  - Friday 11 December 2026, Paris.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 24 June 2026, with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) in the Chair:

- **Held a hearing** with the online participation of Ms Valentina Superti, Director Western Balkans, Directorate-General for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood, European Commission, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Catherine Hugel, Cesare Colombo, John Dorber, Eugen Schoenfeld

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations  
Secretary General of the Congress  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Directors General  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

**Appendix**

**Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur les Balkans occidentaux  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

27 seats / 27 sièges

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Président**

M. Piero FASSINO (Italie, SOC)

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-présidente**

Ms Dunja SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ (Serbia, SOC)

**Full Members / Membres titulaires**

1.	M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)	Belgium / Belgique
2.	Ms SACHEVA Denitsa (EPP/CD)	Bulgaria / Bulgarie
3.	Mr PAVIĆ Marko (EPP/CD)	Croatia / Croatie
4.	Mr VALENTIN Kim (ALDE)	Denmark / Danemark
5.	M. BOUYX Bertrand (ALDE)	France
6.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France
7.	Mme TANGUY Liliana (ALDE)	France
8.	Ms FAESER Nancy (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne
9.	Mr WALCH Siegfried (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne
10.	Mr KALAMATIANOS Dionysios-Charalampos (UEL)	Greece / Grèce
11.	Mr CASEY Patrick (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande
12.	Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)	Italy / Italie
13.	Mr DREOSTO Marco (ECPA)	Italy / Italie
14.	Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC)	Luxembourg
15.	Ms VOGELS Rian (ALDE)	Netherlands / Pays-Bas
16.	Ms PETRUSHEVSKA Marija (EPP/CD)	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord
17.	Ms LAKOVIĆ Nađa (EPP/CD)	Montenegro / Monténégro
18.	Ms POMASKA Agnieszka (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
19.	<b>Mr CARVALHO Ricardo (EPP/CD)</b>	<b>Portugal</b>
20.	Ms MITREA Dumitrina (ECPA)	Romania / Roumanie
21.	Ms SIMONOVIĆ BRATIĆ Dunja (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie
22.	Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)	Spain / Espagne
23.	Mr BEGIC Denis (SOC)	Sweden / Suède
24.	M. MOLINA Fabian (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse
25.	Mr TAN Namik (SOC)	Türkiye
26.	Ms KEARNS Alicia (ECPA)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
27.		

**Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s**

Ms VAN VAERENBERGH Kristien (ALDE)
M. CADEC Alain (EPP/CD)
M. Didier MARIE (France, SOC)
Mr HARDT Jürgen (EPP/CD)
Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)
Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)
Ms VASILEVSKA Ivanka (EPP/CD)
Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC)
Ms Elena Simona SPĂTARU (ALDE)
Ms KOVÁCS Elvira (EPP/CD)
M. COTTIER Damien (SOC)
Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)
Mr Stephen GETHINS (ALDE)

*Ex officio:* Ms Elisabetta GARDINI (Italy, ECPA)

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy  
Présidente de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

**Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient et le monde arabe  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

27 seats / 27 sièges

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Présidente**

Ms Dora BAKOYANNIS (Greece, EPP/CD)

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e**

**Full Members / Titulaires**

**Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s**

1.	ZZ	Armenia / Arménie	
2.	Ms LAMBRECHT Annick (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique	M. RIBAUDO Julien (GUE)
3.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	
4.	Mr SOKOL Petr (NR)	Czechia/ Tchèque	
1.	Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)	Denmark / Danemark	
2.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France	
3.	Mr LUCKS Max (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr Vinzenz GLASER (GUE)
4.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr KALAMATIANOS Dionysios-Charalampos (UEL)
5.	Ms COLLINS Joanne (UEL)	Ireland / Irlande	
6.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie	M. FASSINO Piero (SOC)
7.	Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
8.	Ms KLUIT Saskia (SOC)	Netherlands	
9.	Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne	
10.	<b>Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	
11.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr Virgil Alin CHIRILĂ (SOC)
12.	Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne	Mr GUTIÉRREZ PRIETO Sergio (SOC)
13.	Ms BINDER-KELLER Marianne (PPE/DC)	Switzerland / Suisse	M. MOLINA Fabian (SOC)
14.	Ms ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur (NR)	Türkiye	Mr TORUN Cemalettin Kani (NR)
15.	Mr Serhii SOBOLIEV (EPP/CD)	Ukraine	Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD)
16.	Mr BAKER Richard (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr GETHINS Stephen (ALDE)
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