



Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée parlementaire

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Parliamentary Projects Support Division  
*Division de soutien de projets parlementaires*

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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# Eastern Partnership Parliamentary Dimension

## DETAILED WORK PLAN

### 2015-2017

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*2015 - 2017 EU - CoE Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework*

Funded  
by the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

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Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## Introduction

The reform of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), initiated with the adoption of Resolution 1822 (2011)<sup>1</sup>, has had significant implications on its working methods and Committee structure.

The overall objective of the reform has been to strengthen the political relevance and effectiveness of the Assembly, making it more visible, by reinforcing its interaction with national parliaments. It has also reflected the necessity for the Assembly to improve its awareness of on-going activities and priorities of national parliaments. Enhanced interaction with them should help the Assembly to better tailor its activities and priorities so that European-level debates find their way more easily to national parliaments.

To further these aims, in 2012 a Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD) was created within the Assembly secretariat, whose prime objective is, in partnership with the general Committees, to devise and promote specific co-operation projects by involving parliamentarians and staff of national parliaments.

Peer-to peer seminars, capacity building workshops and exchange of good practices, organised on a well-defined agenda and involving a limited number of countries have been preferred to large-scale conferences.

Importance has also been given to identifying issues and projects on which it will be possible to build in the longer term. Although the Plan is formulated for one year, a number of initiatives are conceived with a multi-annual horizon, on the basis of which concrete results at the national level, can reasonably be expected.

By targeting its co-operation with national parliaments on thematic priorities which are at the core of its work, the PACE can usefully complement and reinforce initiatives taken by the Council of Europe at the inter-governmental level by adding a parliamentary dimension.

## Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework – Parliamentary Dimension

Starting from 2015, the Parliamentary Assembly will also participate in the implementation of a joint framework agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Union, the so called **2015 – 2017 EU-CoE Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF)**. This financial facility aims at providing assistance to the reinforcement of democratic reforms in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The framework agreement will encompass co-operation activities, during the period 2015-2017 around five themes: (i) protecting and promoting human rights; (ii) ensuring justice; (iii) combating threats to the rule of law; (iv) addressing the challenges of the information society; and (v) promoting democratic governance.

PACE projects have been accepted in four thematic activities and will extend to all countries with the exclusion, for the time being, of Belarus. The Assembly initiatives will mostly be designed at regional level, aimed at organising peer to peer seminars for Members of Parliaments of the region and information / training workshops for the staff of the Parliaments. A few activities will be implemented at national level, mainly on human rights related issues.

More specifically under the priority '**protecting and promoting human rights**', projects on the role of national Parliaments on the supervision of the government activity in the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights as well as on the implementation of the European Social Charter will be carried out.

Under the priority '**combating threats to the rule of law**', it is foreseen to organise regional parliamentary seminars on mechanisms to counter corruption. As regards the priority '**addressing challenges of the information society**', several inter-parliamentary co-operation activities are planned on: media regulation, the safety of journalists and the access to public media during electoral campaigns. Finally, under the priority '**promoting democratic governance**', the Assembly will undertake activities on ways and means to improve (regional) parliamentary co-operation in electoral matters.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 1822 (2011) *Reform of the Parliamentary Assembly* and Doc. 12627 (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Claude Mignon), adopted by the PACE on 22 June 2011.

**Summary Calendar of Eastern Partnership activities in 2015**  
**with the Parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<b>18-20 March</b>	Capacity-building seminar for the staff of national parliaments on the European Convention on Human Rights	Strasbourg	AS/JUR
<b>18 May</b>	Regional seminar for national parliamentarians to work towards on greater conformity of national legislations with the European Social Charter (Revised)	Chisinau	AS/SOC
<b>May/June</b>	Conference for national parliamentarians on awareness raising on safety of journalists	Kyiv	AS/CULT
<b>4-5 June</b>	Regional seminar for national parliamentarians on developing the parliamentary dimension of regional co-operation in electoral matters	Paris	Election Observation Division
<b>1-2 July</b>	Regional seminar for national parliamentarians on parliamentary mechanisms and structures for the supervision of the implementation of the ECHR's judgments	Tbilisi, Georgia	AS/JUR
<b>Oct</b>	National Seminar for parliamentarians on parliamentary mechanisms and structures for the supervision of the implementation of the ECHR's judgments	Ukraine	AS/JUR
<b>Nov/Dec</b>	Regional seminar for national parliamentarians on strengthening the capacity of parliaments to prevent/counter corruption	Paris	AS/PRO
<b>Nov</b>	Regional seminar for national parliamentarians to improve freedom, independence, pluralism and diversity of media	Budapest (tbc)	AS/CULT

## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP 2015 -2017 - PLANNING OF ACTIVITIES

		2015	2016	2017				Notes
<b>PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS</b>								
	<b>ESC</b>	Seminar	Seminar	Seminar	Seminar	Seminar	Seminar	
SOC	Awareness raising seminars for MPS on the conformity of national legislation with the European Social Charter (ESC)	Regional (Moldova) on 18 May			National tbd		National tbd	
	<b>ECHR</b>							
JUR	Awareness raising seminars for MPs to promote the role of parliaments in the supervision of the implementation of the ECHR judgments	Regional (Georgia) May or July	National (Ukraine) October	National tbd	National tbd	National tbd	National tbd	
	Capacity building seminars on the Convention of Human Rights for the staff of national parliaments	Regional (Strasbourg), on 18-20 March		National tbd	National tbd	National tbd	National tbd and Regional (Strasbourg)	
<b>COMBATING THREATS TO THE RULE OF LAW</b>								
	<b>CORRUPTION</b>							
RUL	Awareness raising seminars for members of national parliaments on mechanisms to counter corruption		Regional (Paris) Nov-Dec					other regional tbd
<b>ADDRESSING CHALLENGES OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY</b>								
	<b>PBS / MEDIA</b>							
CUL T	Regional seminars to promote a dialogue between MPs and public broadcasters in order to help identifying areas of reform		Regional (Budapest) November					
	<b>SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS</b>							
CUL T	Awareness raising seminars for national parliamentarians on safety of journalists	Regional (Ukraine) May or June				National tbd		
	<b>MEDIA/ELECTIONS</b>							
CUL T+ ELE C	Parliamentary seminars on the role of the national parliaments in the control of the access to public media during electoral campaigns			Regional tbd				
<b>PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE</b>								
	<b>ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE</b>							
ELE CT	Developing the parliamentary dimension of the regional co-operation in electoral matters	Regional (Paris) on 4-5 June						
	Pre-electoral missions	Azerbaijan 2015		Georgia 2016		Armenia 2017		