

Information documents

SG-AS (2017) 03

18 April 2017

Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1284th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (19 April 2017)

¹ This document covers past activities of the Assembly since the meeting of the Bureau on 27 January 2017 (Strasbourg) and the future activities up to the meeting of the Bureau on 24 April 2017 (Strasbourg).

I. Decisions taken by the Bureau

A. Second part-session of 2017 (24-28 April 2017)

On 10 March 2017, the Bureau drew up the draft agenda and took note of the guest speakers to be invited to the Assembly's second part-session of 2017 (Appendix I).

The Bureau took note of a request tabled by Mr Talip Küçükcan on behalf of the delegation of Turkey to hold a current affairs debate on *European values under threat: addressing rising populism, xenophobia, antisemitism and islamophobia in Europe*.

It also took note of a request tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *Political consequences of the new Israeli Settlement Regulation Law*.

A list of events to be held during this part-session is appended to this communication (Appendix 2).

B. Observation of elections

➤ Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (26 March 2017)

On 10 March 2017, the Bureau approved the revised list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections.

➤ Armenia: parliamentary elections (2 April 2017)

On 10 March 2017, the Bureau took note of the statement of the pre-electoral mission as well as of a letter by Ms Naghdalyan, Chairperson of the delegation of Armenia. It also approved the revised list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections.

➤ Serbia: presidential election (2 April 2017)

On 10 March 2017, the Bureau took note of the date of the election.

➤ Referendum on constitutional amendments in Turkey (16 April 2017)

On 10 March 2017, the Bureau took note of the invitation to observe the referendum; approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe this referendum and appointed Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) as its Chairperson.

➤ Albania: parliamentary elections (18 June 2017)

On 10 March 2017, the Bureau decided, subject to receiving an invitation, to observe these elections and constituted an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 30 members (EPP/CD: 11; SOC: 10, EC: 4, ALDE: 4, UEL: 1 - in accordance with the D'Hondt system) as well as of the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee. It authorised a pre-electoral mission.

➤ Schedule of elections for 2017

On 10 March 2017, the Bureau took note of the elections calendar for 2017 as presented in the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly.

C. Other decisions taken by the Bureau at its meeting on 9-10 March 2017

➤ Allegations of corruption in the Assembly

On 9 March 2017, the Bureau took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly and decided to invite the leaders of the five political groups to prepare a revised proposal for adoption at the next Bureau meeting.

II. Standing Committee – 10 March 2017

The Standing Committee held exchanges of views with:

- Mr Christian Ahlund, Chairperson of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI);
- representatives of the Russian Parliament (Mr Pyotr Tolstoy, Mr Leonid Slutsky, Mr Leonid Kalashnikov, Mr Konstantin Kosachev and Mr Vladimir Lukin) on modalities of co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Russian Parliament in 2017.

It also held a current affairs debate on “The escalation of the military conflict in the Donbass area”.

Following debates, it adopted the following texts on behalf of the Assembly, which are available on the Assembly website:

Resolution 2154 (2017) Securing the access of detainees to lawyers

Resolution 2155 (2017) The political rights of persons with disabilities: a democratic issue.

III. Prizes

➤ **Council of Europe Museum Prize**

The winner of the 2017 Museum Prize is the Mémorial ACTe, Caribbean Centre of Expressions and Memory of the Slave Trade and Slavery (Guadeloupe, France). The award ceremony will take place on 25 April 2017 in *Hotel de Ville*, Strasbourg.

➤ **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**

This Prize is awarded annually by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in partnership with the Václav Havel Library, the Charta 77 Foundation and the Government of the Czech Republic, in memory of Václav Havel, playwright, opponent of totalitarianism, architect of the velvet revolution of 1989, President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic and an enduring symbol of opposition to despotism.

The deadline for presenting nominations for the 2017 edition of the Prize is 30 April 2017. Website: [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize](#)

IV. Activities of Committees and Networks

- On 6 March 2017 in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** held an exchange of views on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* (Rapporteur: Mr Alain Destexhe, Belgium, ALDE) with the participation of Mr Serguei Kouznetsov, Head of Division, Neighbourhood Co-operation, Secretariat of the Venice Commission.
- On 7 March 2017 in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights** held a hearing on *Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the “Cairo Declaration”?* (Rapporteur: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez, Spain, SOC) with the participation of Prof. Ruud Peters, Prof. Em. Law of Islam and the Middle East, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Prof. Mathias Rohe, Director of the Erlangen Center for Islam and the Law in Europe, Erlangen University, Germany.
- On 13 March 2017 in Paris, the **Committee on Rules of Procedures, Immunities and Institutional Affairs** held a hearing on the *Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members* (Rapporteur: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, UK, EC) with the participation of Ms Kathryn Hudson, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, United Kingdom, and Ms Chiara Malasomma, Head of Unit, and Ms Elisabeth Bauer, Administrator, Transparency Unit, Directorate for Interinstitutional Affairs and Legislative Coordination, European Parliament.

- On 15-16 March 2017 in Baku, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:**
 - held an exchange of views on the *Situation of migration in the South Caucasus* with the participation of Mr Ogtay Asadov, Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan, Mr Valeh Alasgarov, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan, Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC), Chairperson of the PACE Delegation of Azerbaijan, Mr Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Education, Mr Khalaf Khalafov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children affairs and Mr Parviz Musayev, Deputy Chief of the State Migration Service;
 - held a hearing on *Internal displacement in the South Caucasus* with the participation of Mr Furio De Angelis, representative of the UNHCR in Azerbaijan, Ms Dragana Filipović, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Azerbaijan, and Ms Amanda Paul, Senior Policy Analyst, Turkey and the Eurasia Region, European Policy Centre (EPC);
 - held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Ali Hasanov, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairperson of the State Committee on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Affairs, following a visit of a settlement built for IDPs in the Mushvigabad District of Baku.

- On 20-21 March 2017 in Paris, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:**
 - held a hearing on *Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in the public space* (Rapporteur: Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, Luxembourg, EPP/CD) with the participation of Ms Chris Blache, Consultant in ethno-sociology, co-founder of Gender and City (Paris) and Ms Jo-Ann Enright, Communications, Campaigns and Digital Coordinator of Action Aid Ireland;
 - held a hearing on *Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people* (Rapporteur: Mr Piet de Bruyn, Belgium, NR) with the participation of Mr Dan Christian Ghattas, Co-Chair, Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe), Ms Kitty Anderson, Secretary, Executive Board, Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe) and Mr Romain Blanchard, chargé de mission on discrimination, Défenseur des droits (France);
 - held an exchange of views on *Current threats to women's rights* with the participation of Ms Iliana Stoicheva, Vice President of European Women's Lobby.

- On 22-23 March 2017 in Paris, the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:**
 - held an exchange of views on the *Cooperation between the Committee and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe*, with the participation of Ambassador António Gamito, Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe;
 - held a hearing on *Deliberate destruction and illegal trafficking of cultural heritage* (Rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC) with the participation of Mr Edouard Planche, Programme Specialist, Movable Heritage and Museums Section, UNESCO; Ms France Desmarais, Director of Programmes and Partnerships, ICOM (International Council of Museums) and Mr John Bold, heritage expert, United Kingdom;
 - held an exchange of views on the *Draft Convention of the Council of Europe on Offences relating to Cultural Property*, with the participation of Ms Claudia Luciani, Director, Directorate of Democratic Governance, DGII, Council of Europe and Mr Carlo Chiaromonte, Secretary of the Committee on Offences relating to Cultural Property (PC-IBC), Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I), Council of Europe;
 - held an exchange of views on *Political influence over independent media and journalists* (Rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC) with the participation of Prof. Marilyn Clark, Department of Psychology, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta and with Mr Ricardo Gutiérrez, General Secretary, European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), Brussels;
 - held an exchange of views on *Media freedom as a condition for democratic elections* (Rapporteur: Ms Gülsün Bilgehan, Turkey, SOC), with the participation of Mr Rast'o Kužel, Executive Director of MEMO 98, Slovakia and Ms Lusine Badalyan, Senior Election Adviser, OSCE-ODIHR, Warsaw.

- On 24 March 2017 in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development** held an exchange of views on *Increased income inequalities are a threat to social cohesion* (Rapporteur: Mr Andrej Hunko, Germany, UEL), with the participation of Professor Brian Nolan, Director of Employment, Equity and Growth, Professor of Social Policy, Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), University of Oxford, United Kingdom.
- On 27-28 March 2017 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, the **ad hoc Sub-Committee** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy) **to participate in the events organised by the Interparliamentary Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA-CIS)** took part in the parliamentary conference on combating international terrorism co-organised by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and in a joint meeting with the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation of the IPA-CIS and held exchange of views on:
 - combating financing of terrorism and involvement of citizens in terrorist activity (ISIS/Daesh): with statements by Mr Tiny Kox, member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE), Mr Leonid Slutsky and Mr Leonid Kalashnikov, members of the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA-CIS);
 - other current political issues;
 - the co-operation between the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation (IPA-CIS) and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (PACE).
- On 3 April 2017 in Aarhus, Denmark, the **Sub-Committee on Education, Youth and Sport** (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media):
 - held an exchange of views on *Education and culture: new partnerships to support personal development and cohesion* (Rapporteur: Mr Thomas Feist, Germany, SOC) with the participation of Ms Marie-Françoise Chavanne, former President of International Society for Education through Art (InSEA);
 - held a joint hearing with Play the Game on *Hands on, hands off? The role of politicians in reforming sports governance*, with the participation of Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, with Mr Arnout Geeraert, PhD, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, author of the Sports Governance Observer 2015 report and scientific coordinator; Ms Pâquerette Girard Zappelli, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, International Olympic Committee (IOC), Lausanne, Switzerland; Mr Stanislas Frossard, Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), Council of Europe; Mr Michael J. Hershman, ICSS Group CEO, Mr Jean-Yves Lourguilloux, Deputy Financial Public Prosecutor, French National Finances Prosecution Office; Mr Simon Morton, Chief Operating Officer, UK Sport, London; Mr Niels Nygaard, President of the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark (DIF) and Board Member of European Olympic Committees; Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti, President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), President of SportAccord Convention, Lausanne, Switzerland; Mr Hajo Seppelt, investigative reporter, ARD (German public broadcaster), Berlin and Mr Harri Syväsalmi, Director, Finnish Centre for Integrity in Sports.
- On 4 April 2017 in Aarhus, Denmark, the **Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage** (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media):
 - held a hearing on *The value of cultural heritage in a democratic society* (Rapporteur: the Earl of Dundee, United Kingdom, EPP/CD) with the participation of Mr Jakob Bundsgaard, Mayor of Aarhus; Ms Rebecca Matthews, Chief Executive Officer, European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017; Mr Erlend Høyersten, Director of the Aros Art Museum; Mr Chris Kroer Jensen, Projekt Manager, Aarhus Filmtown and Mr Andy Pratt, Centre for Culture and the Creative Industries, City University, London.

V. Seminars and conferences

3-4 February 2017, Lucca, Italy: Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur of *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media* on *Deliberate destruction and illegal trafficking of cultural heritage*, attended the International seminar on *A new perspective on the protection of cultural property through criminal law*, organised by the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca in co-operation with the Council of Europe.

13 February 2017, Berlin: The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the German delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe organised the Conference on *Online hate, conspiracy ideologies and declining confidence in the media*.

20-23 February 2017, Strasbourg: Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on *Deliberate destruction and illegal trafficking of cultural heritage*, attended the third meeting of the Committee on offences relating to cultural property (PC-IBC).

24 February 2017, Tirana: The Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD) organised a national seminar on freedom of expression and the media in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Albania 2015-2017.

2-3 March 2017, Rome: The PPSD organised a seminar on public policies for a group of 20 staff members of the two Chambers of the Moroccan Parliament in the framework of the South Programme II, the Council of Europe-European Union joint programme to foster democracy in Europe's southern neighbourhood. The seminar was hosted by the Italian Parliament.

17-18 March 2017, Borjomi, Georgia: The PPSD organised a national seminar on the European Convention on Human Rights for MPs of the Georgian Parliament, in cooperation with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and in the framework of the Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Eastern Partnership countries.

24 March 2017 in Bärau, Switzerland: A delegation of parliamentarians of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons visited the residential home Bäregg, responsible for the placement and care of all unaccompanied minors who have applied for asylum in Switzerland and who are assigned to the Canton of Bern, in the framework of the Parliamentary Campaign to end immigration detention of children.

27-28 March 2017, Nicosia: An Assembly delegation composed of Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC), Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, SOC) and Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) participated in the launching Conference of the Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-2023, *Human Rights – a reality for all*.

29-31 March 2017, in Strasbourg: Baroness Doreen Massey (United Kingdom, SOC), in her capacity as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Children, participated in the 2nd meeting of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF).

30-31 March 2017, Porto, Portugal: Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE), rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on *Good football governance*, attended the annual seminar and General assembly of the European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL).

11-12 April 2017, Strasbourg: A delegation of parliamentarians of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons took part in a training seminar on "Monitoring places where children are deprived of their liberty as a result of immigration procedures", in the framework of the Parliamentary Campaign to end immigration detention of children.

20-21 April 2017, Strasbourg: The PPSD will organise a national seminar on the European Convention on Human Rights for MPs of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in cooperation with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Department of Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (DG I) and the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2015-2017.

VI. Fact-finding visits in the framework of the preparation of reports

➤ *Youth against corruption*

Ms Eleonora Cimbri (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Rome, from **1 to 2 February 2017**.

➤ *Reshaping the role of education for "digital citizens"*

Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Tallinn from **3 to 4 February 2017**.

➤ *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017*

Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, participated in the 5th OECD Parliamentary Days in Paris from **8 to 10 February 2017**.

➤ *Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe: What follow-up on Respect for Human Rights?*

Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Baku, from **9 to 10 February 2017**.

➤ *Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in the public space*

Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Cologne (Germany) on **14 February 2017**.

➤ *Integration of refugees in times of critical pressure: learning from recent experience and examples of best practices*

Ms Susanna Huovinen (Finland, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Portugal, from **21 to 22 February 2017**.

➤ *Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discriminating against intersex persons*

Mr Piet De Bruyn (Belgium, NR), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Valletta from **23 to 24 February 2017**.

➤ *Call for a Council of Europe Summit to defend and promote democratic security in Europe*

Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to London on **24 February 2017**.

➤ *The honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania*

Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL) and **Mr Joseph O'Reilly** (Ireland, EPP/CD), Co-rapporteurs of the *Monitoring Committee*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Albania from **27 February to 1 March 2017**.

➤ *Effective representation and participation in the Parliamentary Assembly of opposition parliamentarians in the member States*

Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*, carried out fact-finding visits to Ankara on **1 March 2017** and to Chisinau on **2 March 2017**.

➤ *Defending the acquis of the Council of Europe: preserving 65 years of successful intergovernmental co-operation*

Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Madrid on **8 March 2017**.

➤ ***Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress***

Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, participated in the launch event of GRECO's 5th Evaluation Round on the subject on *Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies*, in Strasbourg, on **20 March 2017**.

➤ ***Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (9th report)***

Mr Pierre-Yves Le Borgn' (France, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Warsaw and Budapest from **20 to 23 March 2017**.

➤ ***The Situation in Belarus***

Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Belarus from **22 to 24 March 2017**.

➤ ***Humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine***

Mr Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Poland, from **23 to 24 March 2017**.

➤ ***The political transition in Tunisia***

Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Tunisia from **28 to 30 March 2017**.

➤ ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia***

Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) and **Ms Kerstin Lundgren** (Sweden, ALDE), Co-rapporteurs of the *Monitoring Committee*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Georgia from **28 to 30 March 2017**.

➤ ***Good football governance***

Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, carried out a fact-finding visit to UEFA, (Nyon, Switzerland) on **29 March 2017**. She will carry out meetings with experts and a fact-finding visit to FIFA, (Basel and Zurich, Switzerland) from **20 to 21 April 2017**.

➤ ***Human rights implications of the European response to transit migration across the Mediterranean***

Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis (Greece, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Greece, from **29 to 30 March 2017**.

➤ ***The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland***

Mr Yves Cruchten (Luxembourg, SOC) and **Mr Thierry Mariani** (France, EPP/CD), Co-rapporteurs of the *Monitoring Committee*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Warsaw from **3 to 5 April 2017**.

➤ ***Humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine***

Mr Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Ukraine, from **5 to 7 April 2017**.

➤ ***State of emergency: proportionality issues concerning derogations under Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights***

Mr Raphaël Comte, (Switzerland, ALDE), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights* carried out a fact-finding visit to Kyiv from **12 to 14 April 2017**.

- **Migration from a gender perspective: empowering women as key actors for integration**

Ms Gabriella Heinrich (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Oslo from **18-19 April 2017**.

VII. Relations with the Committee of Ministers

On **16 March 2017** in Strasbourg, **Ms Anne Brasseur** (Luxembourg, ALDE), member of *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*, attended the meeting of the Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) of the Committee of Ministers.

VIII. Relations with the Venice Commission

- **At its meeting in Paris on 6 March 2017**, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy held an exchange of views with Mr Serguei Kouznetsov, Head of Division, Neighbourhood Co-operation, Secretariat of the Venice Commission, in the context of the preparation of a report on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*, by Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE).
- **International Conference on *The interaction between the political majority and the opposition in a democracy*** organised by the Venice Commission in co-operation with the Presidency of Romania in Bucharest on 6-7 April 2017. Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Assembly, as well as members of the *Ad hoc Sub-Committees* of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, attended this Conference.
- **58th meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (9 March 2017)**: Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) attended the meeting.
- **110th Plenary session of the Venice Commission (10-11 March 2017)**: Mr Philippe Mahoux (Belgium, SOC) attended the session.

IX. Co-operation with the European Parliament and other EU institutions

On **21 March 2017** in Paris, Mr David Friggieri, Coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred at the European Commission, gave a presentation on *Places of remembrance and cultural institutions as a tool to counter hatred* at the meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance.

On **27 March 2017** in Brussels, Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC), General Rapporteur on violence against women, participated in a hearing on *EU accession to the Istanbul Convention*, organised by the European Parliament.

X. List of meetings of the Committees, the Bureau and the Presidential Committee

- . **6 March 2017, Paris**: *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
- . **7 March 2017, Paris**: *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*
- . **8 March 2017, Paris**: *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*
- . **8 March 2017, Paris**: *Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Member States of the Council of Europe of the Monitoring Committee*
- . **9 March 2017, Madrid**: *Presidential Committee*
- . **9-10 March 2017, Madrid**: *Bureau of the Assembly*
- . **13 March 2017, Paris**: *Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*
- . **15-16 March 2017, Baku**: *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*

- . **20-21 March 2017, Paris:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*
- . **22-23 March 2017, Paris:** *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*
- . **24 March 2017, Paris:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*
- . **26-28 March 2017, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **27-28 March 2017, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation:** *ad hoc Sub-Committee (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy) to participate in the events organised by the IPA-CIS*
- . **3-4 April 2017, Aarhus, Denmark:** *Sub-Committee on Education, Youth and Sport and Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage (of the Committee on on Culture, Science, Education and Media)*
- . **6 April 2017, Paris:** *Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights*
- . **6-7 April 2017, Bucharest:** *Ad hoc Sub-Committees (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs) to participate in the International Conference on *The interaction between the political majority and the opposition in a democracy**
- . **23 April 2017, Strasbourg:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **24 April 2017, Strasbourg:** *Bureau of the Assembly*



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Second part of the 2017 Ordinary Session (24-28 April 2017)

Draft agenda¹

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 9 March 2017.
Updated, under the authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly, to reflect modifications to be proposed to the Bureau of the Assembly (modifications are indicated in grey).



Abbreviations

Bur: Bureau of the Assembly

Per: Standing Committee

Pol: Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Jur: Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Soc: Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Mig: Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Cult: Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

Ega: Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

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

Pro: Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

Cdh: Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party

SOC: Socialist Group





EC: European Conservatives Group

ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

UEL: Group of the Unified European Left

NR: Representatives not belonging to a political group

Symbols

-  Presentation, statement
-  Deadline for tabling documents
-  Lists (speakers, questions)
-  Votes

Meetings outside the Chamber

Bureau of the Assembly

Monday: 07:30-09:30

Friday: 08:30-10:00

Committees

Monday: 14:00-15:00

Tuesday: 08:30-10:00

Tuesday: 14:00-15:30

Wednesday: 14:00-15:30

Thursday: 08:30-10:00

Thursday: 14:00-15:30

Political groups

Monday: 09:30-11:30

Monday: 17:00-19:00

Wednesday: 08:30-10:00

Monday 24 April 2017

Sitting No. 10 (11:30-13:00)

1. Opening of the part-session

- 1.1. Statement by the President
- 1.2. Examination of credentials
- 1.3. Election of Vice-Presidents of the Assembly in respect of the Republic of Moldova and Romania
- 1.4. Changes in the membership of committees
- 1.5. Request(s) for current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure
 - 1.5.1. Current affairs debate: "European values under threat: addressing rising populism, xenophobia, antisemitism and Islamophobia in Europe"
 - 1.5.2. Urgent procedure debate: "Political consequences of the new Israeli Settlement Regulation Law"
- 1.6. Adoption of the agenda
- 1.7. Approval of the minutes of proceedings of the Standing Committee (Madrid, 10 March 2017)

2. Debate

- 2.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee
 - Presentation by:
 - Mr Jordi XUCLÀ (Spain, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc.)
 - 2.2. Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (26 March 2017)
 - Presentation by:
 - Ms Marie-Christine DALLOZ (France, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc.)
- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 24 April, 10:00)
- 🗳️ [possibly] Vote

Sitting No. 11 (15:00-17:00)

3. Address (15:00-16:00)

- 3.1. Communication from the Committee of Ministers
 - Presentation by:
 - Mr Ioannis KASOULIDES, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers
- 📅 Questions (deadline for registration: Monday 24 April, 12:00)
- 🕒 Written questions (deadline for tabling: Monday 17 April, 11:30)

4. Debate

- 4.1. Free debate
 - 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 24 April, 12:00)

Sitting No. 12 (10:00-13:00)

5. Debate

5.1. The functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey

- Presentation by:
 - Ms Ingebjørg GODSKESEN (Norway, EC), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 14282)
 - Ms Marianne MIKKO (Estonia, SOC), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 14282)
- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 24 April, 16:00)
- 🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 24 April, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 14282)

Sitting No. 13 (15:30-20:00)

6. Question time (15:30-16:00)

6.1. Mr Thorbjørn JAGLAND, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

- 📅 Questions

7. Debate

7.1. Human rights in the North Caucasus: what follow-up to Resolution 1738 (2010)?

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Michael McNAMARA (Ireland, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 14083)
- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 25 April, 12:00)
- 🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 24 April, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 14083)

8. Debate

8.1. Fighting income inequality as a means of fostering social cohesion and economic development

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Andrej HUNKO (Germany, UEL), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 14287)
- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 25 April, 12:00)
- 🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 24 April, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 14287)

Wednesday 26 April 2017

Sitting No. 14 (10:00-13:00)

9. Debate

9.1. Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence

- Presentation by:
 - Ms Gisela WURM (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 14284)
 - Ms Petra De SUTTER (Belgium, SOC), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Mig (Doc.)

- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 25 April, 19:00)
- 🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 25 April, 10:30)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 14284)

10. Address (12:00-13:00)

10.1. Mr Prokopis PAVLOPOULOS, President of the Hellenic Republic

- Speech (12:00-12:20)
- Questions and replies (12:20-13:00)

- 📅 Questions

Sitting No. 15 (15:30-20:00)

11. Address (15:30-16:30)

11.1. Annual activity report 2016 by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (CommDH(2017)3)

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Nils MUIŽNIEKS, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

- 📅 Questions

12. Debate

12.1. 25 years of the CPT: achievements and areas for improvement

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Jordi XUCLÀ (Spain, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 14280)

- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 26 April, 12:00)
- 🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 25 April, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 14280)

13. Debate

13.1. Abusive use of the Interpol system: the need for more stringent legal safeguards

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Bernd FABRITIUS (Germany, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 14277)

- 📅 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 26 April, 12:00)
- 🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 25 April, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 14277)

Thursday 27 April 2017

Sitting No. 16 (10:00-13:00)

14. Debate under urgent procedure or current affairs debate²

15. Address (12:00-13:00)

15.1. His Majesty the King of Spain

Sitting No. 17 (15:30-20:00)

16. Debate

16.1. The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Valeriu GHILETCHI (Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 14260)
- 📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 27 April, 12:00)
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 26 April, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 14260)

17. Debate

17.1. Possible ways to improve the funding of emergency refugee situations

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Cezar Florin PREDA (Romania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Mig
- 📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 27 April, 12:00)
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 26 April, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 14283)

Friday 28 April 2017

Sitting No. 18 (10:00-13:00)

18. Debate

18.1. Technological convergence, artificial intelligence and human rights

□ Presentation by:

- Mr Jean-Yves LE DÉAUT (France, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 14288)
- Mr Boriss CILEVIČS (Latvia, SOC), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Jur (Doc.)

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 27 April, 19:00)

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 27 April, 10:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft recommendation (Doc. 14288)

19. Debate

19.1. ...

20. Progress report (continued)

21. Closure of the part-session

APPENDIX II – List of events linked to the part-session

Monday 24 April 2017	
<p>2–3 pm Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p>	<p>► Round table on “The role of non-governmental organisations as promoters of positive practices in care and accommodation for refugee and migrant minors”</p> <p>in the context of the Parliamentary Campaign to End immigration detention of children, with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Ivana Milanovic-Djukic, Child Protection Programme Manager, Danish Refugee Council, Serbia • Ms Kristina Marku, Child Protection Coordinator, “Hope for Children” CRC Policy Centre, Cyprus • Representative from SOS Children’s Villages International
<p>2–3 pm Room 9, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p>	<p>► Open discussion on current issues, exchange of views on recent developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Turkey • in Jordan <p>► Exchange of views on the “Political consequences of the new Israeli Settlement Regulation Law”</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Majed Bamy, First Counsellor, Palestinian Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, New York
Tuesday 25 April 2017	
<p>8.30 –10 am Room 1, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p>	<p>► Joint Hearing on “Prosecuting and punishing the crimes against humanity or even possible genocide committed by Daesh”</p> <p>In the context of the report prepared by Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lamia Aji Bashar, Yazidi survivor of ISIS, co-winner of the 2016 Sakharov Prize (tbc) • Ms Ewelina Ochab, legal researcher, PhD scholar, University of Kent
<p>8.30 –10 am Room 6, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “The status of journalists in Europe”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Ms Elvira Drobinski-Weiss (Germany, SOC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Marc Gruber, Expert in Media and communications
<p>8.30 –10 am Room 7, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “Parental authority conflicts”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Ms Martine Mergen (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), with the participation of Ms Juliane Hirsch, Consultant on Private International Law and International Family Law</p> <p>► Hearing on “Detention of Palestinian minors in Israeli prisons”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC), with the participation of representatives of UNICEF and NGOs</p>

Tuesday 25 April 2017

<p>8.30 –10 am Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p>	<p>► Exchanges of views on “The activities of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on migration and refugees”</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Tomáš Boček, Special Representative of the Secretary General on migration and refugees <p>► Exchanges of views on “Human rights implications of the European response to transit migration across the Mediterranean”</p> <p>In the context of the report prepared by Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis (Greece, EPP/CD), with the participation of an expert (tbc)</p>
<p>2–3.30 pm Room 6, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on the 40th anniversary of the Council of Europe Museum Prize</p> <p>with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Goranka Horjan, Chairperson of the European Museum Forum (EMF) • Mr Jacques Martial, President of Mémorial ACTe, Caribbean center of expressions and memory of the slave trade and slavery (MACTe), Guadeloupe, France, winner of the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2017 • Mr Basil Kerski, Director of the European Solidarity Centre, Gdańsk, Poland, winner of the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2016
<p>8.30 pm Town Hall, Strasbourg</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p>	<p>► Presentation ceremony of the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2017</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Assembly • Mr Roland Ries, Mayor of the City of Strasbourg • Ms Goranka Horjan, Chairperson of the European Museum Forum (EMF) • Mr Jacques Martial, President of Mémorial ACTe, Caribbean center of expressions and memory of the slave trade and slavery (MACTe), Guadeloupe, France, winner of the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2017

Wednesday 26 April 2017

<p>2–3.30 pm Room 6, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “Education and culture: new partnerships to support personal development and cohesion”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Mr Thomas Feist, (Germany, EPP/CD), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Brigit Wolf, freelance expert, Berlin • Dr. Jörg Maas, CEO of “Stiftung Lesen”, the German partner of EU Read • Ms Claudia Marks, Bach-Archiv, Leipzig <p>► Exchange of views on “Need for better international sports governance”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Mr Mogens Jensen, (Denmark, SOC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Howard Shaw, TC Chair of ISO/TC 309 • Mr Philippe Montigny, President of the ETHIC Intelligence Certification Committee that carries out ISO 37001 audits • Mr Filippo Cecchi, Director of the Standard Ethics Communication and Public Affairs Office
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Wednesday 26 April 2017	
<p>2.00– 3.30 pm Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, (United Kingdom, EC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Marin Mrčela, President of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)
<p>2.30– 3.30 pm Room 9, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Mr Michele Nicoletti, (Italy, SOC)</p>
Thursday 27 April 2017	
<p>8.30 –10 am Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p>	<p>► Exchanges of views on “The new asylum law in Hungary”</p> <p>with the participation of an expert (tbc)</p>
<p>9.00 – 10.00 am Room 10, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p>	<p>► Hearing “Strengthening the rule of law in South-East European countries through targeted reform of the legal system (including Reference 4255 “New threats to the Rule of Law in Council of Europe member States”)</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Mr Bernd Fabritius, (Germany, EPP/CD) with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ireneusz Kaminski, Chair of European and International Law, Institute of Legal Studies, Warsaw • Mr Kamil Zaradkiewicz, Professor of Law, Faculty of Law and Administration, Warsaw University, former Head of the Case Law Department of the Polish Constitutional Court • Mr Jean-Claude Scholsem, Venice Commission alternate member, Professor emeritus, University of Liège, Belgium
<p>2 – 3.30 pm Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p>	<p>► Exchanges of views on “Challenges of immigration”</p> <p>in the context of the colloquy held in Lyon on 11 October 2016, with the participation of a representative of the European Association of former members of parliaments of the member States of the Council of Europe (tbc)</p>
<p>2 – 3.30 pm Room 9, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>► Joint Hearing on “Setting minimal standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Ms Elena Centemero, (Italy, EPP/CD), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Michael Krennerich, Chair in Human Rights and Human Rights Politics, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany (tbc) • Ms Marilisa D’Amico, Professor of constitutional law, University of Milan (tbc) • Ms Ajla Van Heel, Gender Adviser, OCSE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) (tbc)