

Information documents

SG-AS (2018) 01

16 January 2018

Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1304th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (17 January 2018)

¹ This document covers past activities of the Assembly since the meeting of the Bureau on 23 November 2017 (Copenhagen) and the future activities up to the meeting of the Bureau on 22 January 2018 (Strasbourg).

I. Decisions taken by the Bureau (23 November and 15 December 2017)

A. First part-session of 2018 (22-26 January 2018)

On 15 December 2017, the Bureau drew up the draft agenda (Appendix 1). It took note of 3 requests for the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure as follows:

- a request tabled by Mr Talip Küçükcan (Turkey, EC) and 20 members, on *Rising anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and xenophobia in Europe: a threat to European values*;
- a request tabled by Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, on behalf of the Committee, on *The Israeli-Palestinian peace process: the role of the Council of Europe*;
- a request tabled by Mr Talip Küçükcan (Turkey, EC) and 20 members, on *Energising the Israeli-Palestinian peace process: contribution of the Council of Europe*.

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

B. Observation of elections

➤ Presidential election in Kyrgyzstan (15 October 2017)

On 23 November 2017, the Bureau approved the report of the ad hoc committee.

➤ Schedule of elections for 2018

On 23 November 2017, the Bureau took note of the elections calendar for 2018.

➤ Participation of non-registered members in election observation

On 23 November 2017, the Bureau decided to ask the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to consider the issue of rights of non-registered (not belonging to any political group) members of the Assembly in the framework of the ongoing report on *Amending Rule 19 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure on political groups* (Rapporteur: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD). It also decided to return to the matter of participation of non-registered members of the Assembly in election observation missions in the framework of the ongoing revision of *Guidelines on election observation*.

C. Other decisions taken by the Bureau at its meetings on 23 November and 15 December 2017

➤ **Presidential Committee:** on 23 November, the Bureau took note of the decision of the Presidential Committee to invite four representatives of the Russian Parliament to an exchange of views on the recent report of Mr Michele Nicoletti and the texts adopted by the Assembly on *Call for a Council of Europe Summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe (Resolution 2186 (2017) and Recommendation 2113 (2017))*; it also took note that this exchange of views would take place in Paris on 14 December 2017. On 15 December, the Bureau was informed of the meeting.

➤ **Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights:** on 23 November, the Bureau was informed of the list of candidates to the post of Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights transmitted to the Assembly by the Ministers' Deputies, consisting of:

- Mr Goran Klemenčič (presented by Slovenia);
- Mr Pierre-Yves Le Borgn' (presented by France);
- Ms Dunja Mijatović (presented by Bosnia and Herzegovina)

On 15 December, the Bureau took note of and declassified the report drawn up by the Sub-Committee on Human Rights on the hearing of the candidates to the post of Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, which was subsequently transmitted to the members of the Assembly as an addendum of the Progress report.

- **Procedure for considering motions for resolutions and recommendations and its possible improvement:** on 23 November, the Bureau took note of the memorandum by the Secretary General of the Assembly and referred the matter to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs for report.
- **Independent external investigation body on the allegations of corruption within the Assembly:** on 23 November, the Bureau:
- decided to extend the terms of reference of the independent external investigation body until 15 April 2018;
 - took note of the decision of the Secretary General of the Assembly to ask the Committee of Ministers to transfer 20,000 euro from the Assembly budget to the special account of the investigation body.
- **Acknowledgement of a new political group (Free Democrats Group):** on 23 November, the Bureau:
- took note of the memorandum and the conclusions provided by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary General of the Assembly as regards the authenticity of the signatures and the validity of the consent of the members of the FDG group who had resigned from the EC group;
 - confirmed that the numbers of members in political groups of the Assembly on 30 June 2017 were the following: EPP/CD: 181; SOC: 174; EC: 88; ALDE: 67; UEL: 34;
 - decided to close the discussion concerning the establishment of the FDG group.
- **Calendar for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** on 23 November, the Bureau:
- took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
 - approved the new calendar for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Appendix 3), subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report.
- **Resolution 2182 (2017): follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members:** on 23 November, the Bureau:
- took note of the memorandum by Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, setting out the content and format of declaratory requirements;
 - asked the Committee to reconsider its decision concerning declaratory requirements of financial interests;
 - took note of the memorandum by the Secretary General of the Assembly setting out the model sworn declaration for honorary associates and Honorary Presidents of the Assembly to be sent to former members of the Assembly holding the title of honorary associate of the Parliamentary Assembly or Honorary President of the Assembly, in line with the Assembly's decision;
 - set a deadline of six months for the former members of the Assembly concerned to return their signed sworn declaration;
 - decided that, at the expiry of this deadline, failure to make a declaration or a refusal to sign such a declaration will *ipso facto* lead to the withdrawal of the title of honorary associate/Honorary President.
- **Outgoing President: interpretation of Rule 20.3 of the Parliamentary Assembly's Rules of Procedure:** on 23 November, the Bureau:
- took note of the interpretation provided by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, according to which *'only a President who has been duly elected by the Assembly can be considered to be an outgoing President of the Assembly'*;
 - decided to ask the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to prepare a report on *Amending Rule 20.3 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure on the status of the immediate past President of the Assembly*.
- **Honorary President:** on 23 November, the Bureau decided to grant the title of Honorary President to Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Assembly 2012-2014.
- **Proposal to set up an *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau on *The role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly*:** on 15 December, the Bureau decided to set up, under Article 44.4.c. of the Rules of Procedure, an *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau on *The role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly* and approved its terms of reference, composition and timetable as set out in Appendix 4, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress Report.

- **Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the 2018 financial year:** on 15 December, the Bureau:
 - took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
 - took note of the decision by the Turkish Government to withdraw from the status of major contributor to the budget of the Council of Europe as from 1 January 2018;
 - asked the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to prepare a report modifying the Assembly's Rules of Procedure with a view to removing Turkish from the list of working languages of the Assembly;
 - asked the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly to enquire with the Turkish Parliament whether it might wish to return to the previous practice of covering the cost of Turkish interpretation in the Assembly.
- **Parliamentary co-operation activities:** on 15 December, the Bureau took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly.
- **Cooperation with the European Parliament and other European Union institutions (June to December 2017):** on 15 December, the Bureau took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly.
- **Apportionment of the allocation to political groups for 2018:** on 15 December, the Bureau approved the proposal for the apportionment of the allocation.

II. Prizes

➤ Council of Europe Museum Prize

At its meeting on 5 December 2017, in Budapest, the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media decided to award the 2018 Museum Prize to the War Childhood Museum, Sarajevo. The award ceremony will take place on 24 April 2018 in *Palais des Rohan*, Strasbourg.

➤ Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

On 15 December 2017, the Bureau took note of the calendar of the 2018 edition of the Prize (Appendix 5);

On 15 January 2018, the Assembly launched a call for nominations for the 2018 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize (Appendix 6).

The deadline for presenting nominations is **30 April 2018**. Website: [Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize](#)

III. European Conference of Presidents of Parliament 2018 (Ankara, 13-14 September 2018)

On 15 December 2017, the Bureau:

- took note of the information provided by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- took note of the two themes of the Conference agreed by the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, namely:
 - . theme 1: *Tackling terrorism: the role and responsibility of national parliaments*
 - . theme 2: *Encountering hate speech, racism and xenophobia: challenges for national parliaments;*
- and decided to ask the Turkish Parliament to provide a list of the already invited Parliaments in time for the next Bureau meeting.

IV. Activities of Committees and Networks

- On 24 November 2017 in Tirana, Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) participated in the national seminar co-organised by the **No Hate Parliamentary Alliance** on *Combating intolerance, discrimination and hatred: How to improve legislation and enforcement?*.
- On 8 December 2017 in Paris the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**:
 - held an exchange of views on ***Integration, empowerment and protection of migrant children through compulsory education*** (Rapporteur: Ms Petra De Sutter, Belgium, SOC) with the participation of Mr İzzet Şahin, Board member responsible for Humanitarian Diplomacy, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, Turkey and Mr Wouter Vandenhoe, UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights, Spokesperson Law and Development Research Group, University of Antwerp, Belgium;
 - held an exchange of views on ***the reception conditions on the Greek islands*** (Rapporteur: Ms Petra De Sutter, Belgium, SOC) in the context of the activities of the General Rapporteur on conditions of reception of refugees and migrants, with Ms Louise Roland-Gosselin, Advocacy Manager, Doctors Without Borders, Greece;
 - held an exchange of views on ***Family reunification in the Council of Europe member States*** (Rapporteur: Ms Ulla Sandbæk, Denmark, UEL) with the participation of Ms Amanda Taylor, Coordinator of the European Database of Asylum Law, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Brussels;
 - held an exchange of views on ***Addressing the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons: recent lessons and future challenges in Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Killion Munyama, Poland, EPP/CD) with the participation of Professor Evelyne Schmid, Centre of European and International Comparative Law, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.
- On 12 December 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"?*** in the context of a report prepared by Mr Antonio Gutiérrez (Spain, SOC) with the participation of Ms Mona Siddiqui, Chair of the independent review into the application of Sharia law in England and Wales, Professor of Islamic and inter-religious studies at the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.
- On 14 December 2017 in Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**:
 - following a statement by Mr Michele Nicoletti, former Rapporteur, on his participation in the meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 13 December 2017, held an exchange of views on the *Follow-up to Resolution 2186 (2017) and Recommendation 2113 (2017) on the Call for a Council of Europe summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe*;
 - held an exchange of views on *Libya's future between the threats of terrorism and a democratic prospect* (Rapporteur: Mr Attila Korodi, Romania, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission; Mr Arturo Varvelli, Co-Head of the Middle East and North Africa Centre, Institute for International Political Studies, Milan; Ms Matilda Bogner, Head of the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL); and Mr Lorenzo Kluzer, Senior Policy Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service, European Union.
- On 14 December 2017 in Paris, the **Sub-Committee on External Relations** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy):
 - held an exchange of views with members of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA-CIS), with the participation of Mr Leonid Kalashnikov, Chairman of the Delegation of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to IPA-CIS.

V. Seminars and Conferences

24 November 2017, Tirana: In cooperation with the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, the Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD) organised a parliamentary seminar on *Combating intolerance, discrimination and hatred – how to improve legislation and enforcement?* The activity was organised in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Albania for 2016-2017.

6 December 2017, Budapest: In cooperation with the Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society, the PPSD organised a regional parliamentary conference on *The role of national parliaments in improving independence and pluralism of the media.*

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

➤ ***Addressing the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons: recent lessons and future challenges in Europe***

Mr Killion Munyama (Poland, EPP/CD) Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Tbilisi on **27 November 2017**.

➤ ***Establishment of an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights***

Ms Petra De Sutter (Belgium, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*, carried out a fact-finding visit to European Union institutions in Brussels on **27 November 2017**. She also met Ms Sophie In 't Veld, Rapporteur of the European Parliament, on **20 December 2017**.

➤ ***Rethinking 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 on **28-30 November 2017**.

➤ ***Women in the economy: promoting gender equality and women's access to STEM education and careers (science, technology, engineering and maths)***

Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out a fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom on **4-5 December 2017**.

➤ ***Radicalisation of migrants and diaspora communities in Europe***

Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Rome on **5 and 6 December 2017**.

➤ ***The political transition in Egypt***

Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* carried out a fact-finding visit to Cairo (Egypt) on **6-7 December 2017**.

➤ ***Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations***

Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* carried out a fact-finding visit to Geneva (Switzerland) on **11-12 December 2017**.

➤ ***Detainees with severe disabilities in Europe***

Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, SOC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*, carried out fact-finding visits to France on **8 December 2017** and to Belgium on **10-11 January 2018**.

➤ ***Inquiry into growing antimicrobial resistance in Europe***

Mr Serhii Kiral (Ukraine, EC), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development* carried out a fact-finding visit to Norway on **11-12 January 2018**.

VII. Relations with the Committee of Ministers

Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC), former Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the *Call for a Council of Europe summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe*, participated in the exchange of views with the Ministers' Deputies in Strasbourg on **13 December 2017**.

VIII. Relations with the Venice Commission

- **60th Plenary session of the Council for Democratic elections of the Venice Commission (7 December 2017)**: Mr Mugurel Cozmanciuc (Romania, EPP/CD) attended the session.
- **113th Plenary session of the Venice Commission (8-9 December 2017)**: Mr Philippe Mahoux (Belgium, SOC) attended the session.
- **On 12 December 2017 in Paris, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights** decided to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on the compatibility with international standards on human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Romanian Draft Law 140/2017 amending Law 26/2000 on Associations and Foundations.
- **On 13 December 2017 in Paris, the Committee on the Honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)**, following a proposal by the co-rapporteurs on Ukraine, Mr Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD) and Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE), decided to request the opinion of the Venice Commission on two Ukrainian draft laws no. 6674 "On Introducing Changes to the Tax Code of Ukraine to Ensure Public Transparency of the Financing of Public Associations and the Use of International Technical Assistance" and no. 6675 "On Introducing Changes to Some Legislative Acts to Ensure Public Transparency of Information on Finance Activity of Public Associations and on the Use of International Technical Assistance".
- **On 14 December 2017, in Paris, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** held an exchange of views on *Libya's future between the threats of terrorism and a democratic prospect* (Rapporteur: Mr Attila Korodi, Romania, EPP/CD), with the participation of, *inter alia*, Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission.

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

In the framework of the preparation of his report on *Addressing the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons: recent lessons and future challenges in Europe*, Mr Killion Munyama (Poland, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, had meetings in Tbilisi on **27 November 2017** with Mr Erik Hoegg, Acting Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, Mr Johannes Hamacher, Reporting Officer and Mr Jiri Rous, Human Security Team Leader, European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia.

On **6 December 2017** in Paris, the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development held a hearing on *Nuclear safety and security in Europe* with the participation of Mr Michael Kuske from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy.

On **16 January 2018**, in Paris, Mr Luc Pierre Devigne, Deputy Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia and OSCE of the European External Action Service of the European Union, took part in the meeting of the **Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States** of the Committee on the Honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee).

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

- . **4 – 5 December 2017, Budapest:** *Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media*
- . **6 December 2017, Budapest:** *Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media at the Council of Europe, European Youth Centre*
- . **6 December 2017, Paris:** *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*
- . **7 December 2017, Paris:** *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*
- . **8 December 2017, Paris:** *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*
- . **12 December 2017, Paris:** *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*
- . **12 December 2017, Paris:** *Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*
- . **13 December 2017, Paris:** *Committee on the Honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*
- . **14 December 2017, Paris,** *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and its Sub-Committee on External Relations*
- . **14 December 2017, Paris:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **15 December 2017, Paris:** *Bureau of the Assembly*
- . **15 December 2017, Paris:** *Meeting of the Secretaries of National Delegations*
- . **12 January 2018, Paris:** *Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights*
- . **16 January 2018, Paris:** *Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States of the Committee on the Honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*
- . **21 January 2018, Strasbourg:** *Presidential Committee*
- . **21 January 2018, Strasbourg:** *Seminar for new members of the Assembly*

APPENDIX 1

Doc. 14451 prov 1
18 December 2017

First part of the 2018 Ordinary Session (22-26 January 2018)

Draft agenda¹

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 15 December 2017.

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: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group

EC: European Conservatives Group





ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

UEL: Group of the Unified European Left

FDG: Free Democrats Group

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: 08:00-09:30

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 22 January 2018

Sitting No. 1 (11:30-13:00)

1. Opening of the part-session

1.1. Examination of the credentials

- 📄 List of delegations:
 - (Doc.)

1.2. Election of the President of the Assembly

1.3. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

1.4. Appointment of members of committees

1.5. Request(s) for current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure

1.5.1. Urgent procedure debate: "Rising anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and xenophobia in Europe: a threat to European values"

1.5.2. Urgent procedure debate: "The Israeli–Palestinian peace process: the role of the Council of Europe"

1.5.3. Urgent procedure debate: "Energising the Israeli–Palestinian peace process: contribution of the Council of Europe"

1.6. Adoption of the agenda

1.7. Approval of the minutes of proceedings of the Standing Committee (Copenhagen, 24 November 2017)

2. Debate

2.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee

- 📄 Presentation by:
 - Ms Stella KYRIAKIDES (Cyprus, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc.) (Doc.) (Doc.) (Doc.) ([Doc. 14455 Add. 3](#))

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 10:00)

🗳 [possibly] Vote

Sitting No. 2 (15:00-17:00)

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

3.1. Communication from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

- 📄 Presentation by:
 - Mr Thorbjørn JAGLAND

📄 Questions

4. Debate

4.1. Free debate

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 12:00)

Tuesday 23 January 2018

Sitting No. 3 (10:00-13:00)

5. Elections (10:00-13:00)

5.1. Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

- ☐ List of candidates:
 - (Doc. 14444, Doc. 14455 Add. 3)

5.2. Judge to the European Court of Human Rights

- ☐ List of candidates in respect of:
 - Spain (Doc. 14460)

6. Debate

6.1. The protection and promotion of regional or minority languages in Europe

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - Ms Rózsa HOFFMANN (Hungary, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 14466)
 - Ms Elvira KOVÁCS (Serbia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Ega (Doc.)

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Monday 22 January, 16:00)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 22 January, 16:00)

🔔 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 14466)

7. Address (12:00)

7.1. HRH The Crown Princess of Denmark

Sitting No. 4 (15:30-20:00)

8. Elections (continued) (15:30-17:00)

8.1. Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

8.2. Judge to the European Court of Human Rights

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

9.1. Communication from the Committee of Ministers

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - Mr Anders SAMUELSEN, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers

📄 Questions (deadline for registration: Tuesday 23 January, 12:00)

10. Debate

10.1. The case for a basic citizenship income

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - Ms Nunzia CATALFO (Italy, NR), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 14462)

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 23 January, 12:00)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 22 January, 16:00)

🔔 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 14462)

11. Debate

11.1. Humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine

- 📄 Presentation by:
 - o Mr Egidijus VAREIKIS (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Mig ([Doc. 14463](#))
- 📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 23 January, 12:00)
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 22 January, 16:00)
- 🔔 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation ([Doc. 14463](#))

Wednesday 24 January 2018

Sitting No. 5 (10:00-13:00)

12. [Possibly 2nd round] Elections (10:00-13:00)

12.1. Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

12.2. Judge to the European Court of Human Rights

13. Joint debate

13.1. Working towards a framework for modern sports governance

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Mogens JENSEN (Denmark, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Cult ([Doc. 14464](#))

13.2. Good football governance

☐ Presentation by:

- o Ms Anne BRASSEUR (Luxembourg, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Cult ([Doc. 14452](#))

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Tuesday 23 January, 19:00)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 23 January, 10:30)

🔔 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation ([Doc. 14464](#))

🔔 Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 14452](#))

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

14.1. Mr Serzh SARGSYAN, President of Armenia

Speech (12:00-12:20)

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

📄 Questions

Sitting No. 6 (15:30-20:00)

15. [Possibly 2nd round] Elections (15:30-17:00)

15.1. Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

15.2. Judge to the European Court of Human Rights

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

16.1. Mr Lars Løkke RASMUSSEN, Prime Minister of Denmark

Speech (15:30-15:50)

Questions and replies (15:50-16:30)

📄 Questions

17. Debate

17.1. The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina

☐ Presentation by:

- o Mr Tiny KOX (Netherlands, UEL), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon ([Doc. 14465](#))
- o Sir Roger GALE (United Kingdom, EC), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon ([Doc. 14465](#))

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 24 January, 12:00)

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 23 January, 16:00)

🔔 Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 14465](#))

18. Debate

18.1. The case for drafting a European convention on the profession of lawyer

- 📄 Presentation by:
 - o Ms Sabien LAHAYE-BATTHEU (Belgium, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Jur ([Doc. 14453](#))
- 📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Wednesday 24 January, 12:00)
- 🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 23 January, 16:00)
- 🔔 Vote on a draft recommendation ([Doc. 14453](#))

Sitting No. 7 (10:00-13:00)

19. Debate under urgent procedure or current affairs debate²

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

20.1. Mr Alexander Van der BELLEN, President of Austria

Speech (12:00-12:20)

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

 Questions

Sitting No. 8 (15:30-20:00)

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

21.1. Annual activity report 2017 by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

 Presentation by:

- o Mr Nils MUIŽNIEKS, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights


 Questions


22. Debate

22.1. The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2017) and the periodic review of the honouring of obligations by Estonia, Greece, Hungary and Ireland

 Presentation by:

- o Mr Cezar Florin PREDA (Romania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Mon ([Doc. 14450 Part 1](#), [Doc. 14450 Part 2 \(EE\)](#), [Doc. 14450 Part 3 \(GR\)](#), [Doc. 14450 Part 4 \(HU\)](#), [Doc. 14450 Part 5 \(IE\)](#))

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 24 January, 16:00)

 Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 14450 Part 1](#))


23. Debate

23.1. Protecting children affected by armed conflicts

 Presentation by:

- o Ms Sevinj FATALIYEVA (Azerbaijan, EC), Rapporteur AS/Soc ([Doc. 14461](#))

 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 12:00)

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 24 January, 16:00)

 Vote on a draft resolution ([Doc. 14461](#))

Friday 26 January 2018

Sitting No. 9 (10:00-13:00)

24. Debate

24.1. Jurisdictional immunity of international organisations and rights of their staff

- 📄 Presentation by:
 - o Mr Volker ULLRICH (Germany, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur ([Doc. 14443](#))
 - o Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Soc (Doc.)

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 19:00)

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 25 January, 10:30)

🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation ([Doc. 14443](#))

25. Debate

25.1. Strengthening international regulations against trade in goods used for torture and the death penalty

- 📄 Presentation by:
 - o Mr Vusal HUSEYNOV (Azerbaijan, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Jur ([Doc. 14454](#))

📄 List of speakers (deadline for registration: Thursday 25 January, 19:00)

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 25 January, 10:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft recommendation ([Doc. 14454](#))

26. Progress report

26.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (continued)

27. Constitution of the Standing Committee

28. Closure of the part-session

APPENDIX 2 – List of events linked to the part-session

Tuesday 23 January 2018	
<p>8.30 – 10.00 am Room 10, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p>	<p>► Exchange of views with the Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 2014 regarding the Ilgar Mammadov v. Azerbaijan case</p> <p>► Hearing on How can inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe be prevented? (<i>Rapporteur: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC</i>) and “Protecting human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States” (<i>Rapporteur: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD</i>)</p> <p>in the context of the preparation of above reports with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe • Ms Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe • Mr Konstantin Baranov, member of the board of the International Youth Human Rights Movement, Russia
<p>9.00 – 10.00 am Room 3, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>► Joint hearing of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance on Sexist hate speech with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Jurgita Pečiūrienė, Programme Coordinator, Gender-based Violence, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE); • Ms Isabel Ventura, member of the European Women’s Lobby, Portuguese Women’s Studies Association/Women without borders (APEM/MSF)
<p>2–3.30 pm Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on Development aid: a tool for preventing migration crises</p> <p>In the context of the report prepared by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), with the participation of Ms Isabelle Chevalley, Member of the National Council, Parliament of Switzerland, Bern</p>
Wednesday 24 January 2018	
<p>2.45– 3.30 pm Room 7, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development</p>	<p>► Hearing on the provision of palliative care in Europe</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Mr Rónán Mullen (Ireland, EPP/CD), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Philip Larkin, Professor of Clinical Nursing (Palliative Care), University College Dublin and Our Lady’s Hospice and Care Services; • Ms Tiina Saarto, Professor of Palliative Medicine, Chief Physician, Palliative care center, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Helsinki University Hospital, Helsinki University; • Mr Henri de Rohan-Chabot, Executive director, Fondation France Répit

Wednesday 24 January 2018	
<p>2.00– 2.45 pm</p> <p>Room 8, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons</p>	<p>► Hearing on The legal and practical requirements for extra-territorial processing of asylum claims</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Mr Domagoj Hajduković (Croatia, SOC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (UNHCR) • Mr Giulio Di Blasi, Member of the Cabinet of the High Representative / Vice-President Federica Mogherini, European Commission (tbc) <p>► Hearing on Human rights impacts of the external dimension of European Union asylum and migration policy: out of sight, out of rights?</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Othman Belbeisi, Head of the IOM Mission in Libya • Mr Giulio Di Blasi, Member of the Cabinet of HR/VP Federica Mogherini, European Commission (tbc)
<p>2.00 – 3.30 pm</p> <p>Room 9, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p>	<p>► Hearing on <i>A commitment to introduce rules to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States</i></p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC), with the participation of Mr Alan Renwick, Deputy Director of the Constitution Unit, Department of Political Science, University College London</p>
Thursday 25 January 2018	
<p>9.00 – 10.00 am</p> <p>Room 6 , Palais</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p>	<p>► Exchange of views with the Advisory Council of Youth (CCJ)</p>
<p>9.15 – 10.00 am</p> <p>Room 10, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on “Ombudsman Institutions in Europe – the need for a set of common standards”</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Lord Richard Balfe (United Kingdom, EC), with the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Jan Helgesen, member of the Venice Commission in respect of Norway and Chair of the Venice Commission’s Scientific Council
<p>2–3 pm</p> <p>Room 6, Palais</p> <p>Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media</p>	<p>► Exchange of views on Creation of the position of "Internet Ombudsman" in charge of assessing the legal or illegal nature of internet contents through screening procedures</p> <p>in the context of the report prepared by Mr Frédéric Reiss (France, EPP/CD), with the participation of Mr Dan Shefet, lawyer at the Court of Appeal of Paris</p>

Thursday 25 January 2018

2–3 pm
Room 7, Palais

Committee on Social
Affairs, Health and
Sustainable Development

► **Hearing on Nuclear safety and security in Europe**

in the context of the report prepared by Ms Emine Nur Günay (Turkey, EC), with the participation of experts from the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and FORATOM (*to be confirmed*).

APPENDIX 3 - New calendar for the election of the Secretary General

For a mandate beginning on 1 October of year n:

- September n-1: after informal discussions between the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Chair of the Committee of Ministers (CM). PACE, through its Bureau, confirms the date of the election (June of year n);
- October n-1: the CM fixes the timetable and calls for candidatures to be received before 10 January n. The Chair of the CM writes to his/her colleagues asking for suitable candidates and drawing attention to the "Juncker criteria" and to the gender equality aspects;
- 10 January n: deadline for member states to propose candidates;
- January n: consultation with PACE through the Joint Committee on all proposed candidates;
- March n: interviews of candidates by CM, drawing up of the recommendation and subsequent transmission to PACE;
- Before June n: interviews by the Assembly of the candidates included in the recommendation;
- June n: election by PACE;
- 1 October n: start of the mandate of the new Secretary General.

If only one candidate appears in the recommendation:

- a discussion during the April n PACE part-session to seek agreement in the Joint Committee on the submission of only one candidate in the CM recommendation;
- if agreement is reached in the Joint Committee, subsequent transmission of recommendation to PACE;
- June n: interviews and election by PACE;
- 1 October n: start of the mandate of the new Secretary General.

If the CM considers that no candidates are suitable to appear in the recommendation or if no agreement is reached in the Joint Committee on the submission of only one candidature in the recommendation:

- April n: renewed call for candidates within a deadline of maximum six weeks;
- June n: new consultation in Joint Committee on candidatures proposed by member states,
- July n: interview of candidatures by CM, drawing up of the recommendation and subsequent transmission to PACE;
- End September/October n: interviews and election by PACE;
- 1 October or no later than three weeks after the day of election by PACE: start of the mandate of the new Secretary General.

APPENDIX 4 – Terms of reference of the Ad hoc Committee

The Bureau of the Assembly decides², subject to ratification by the Assembly through its Progress Report, under Article 44.4.c. of the Rules of Procedure to set up an *Ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau on ***The role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly*** with the following terms of reference, composition and timetable.

1. Terms of reference

To make proposals to the Bureau of the Assembly on the implementation of paragraphs 16-18 of Resolution 2186 (2017) on *Call for a Council of Europe summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe*. The *ad hoc* committee will notably have a twofold task:

- to reflect on, and if possible prepare, proposals aimed at harmonising the rules governing participation and representation of member States in both statutory organs, while fully respecting the autonomy of the two bodies;
- to prepare proposals as regards the role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly as a statutory organ of the Council of Europe and a pan-European forum for interparliamentary dialogue which aims at having an impact in all Council of Europe member States.

The *ad hoc* committee will carry out its work in the two official languages (English and French). Its report, once presented to the Bureau, will provide useful input into the report under preparation by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the *Identity, role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly as a statutory organ of the Council of Europe and a pan-European forum for interparliamentary dialogue*.

2. Composition

Since Resolution 2186 (2017) states that “For this process to be credible and fruitful, the whole Assembly and every single member State should do their utmost to ensure that all member States of the Organisation will be fully represented in the process on both the parliamentary and intergovernmental sides in strict compliance with their respective obligations and resolutions” (paragraph 17), the *ad hoc* committee will be composed of:

- The President of the Assembly;
- The Chairpersons of Political Groups or, in their absence, a member representing the group concerned;
- The Chairpersons of national delegations or, in their absence, a member of the delegation duly designated;
- The Chairpersons of the general committees listed in Rule 44.1. of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly or, in their absence, one of the vice-chairpersons of the committee concerned;
- The Rapporteur of the Committee of Political Affairs and Democracy on *Identity, role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly as a statutory organ of the Council of Europe and a pan-European forum for interparliamentary dialogue* as well as the Rapporteur for *opinion* of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs on this subject.

3. Timetable

The *Ad hoc* Committee should present its report to the Bureau, at the latest, at its December 2018 meeting.

² Decision taken by the Bureau in Paris on 15 December 2017, subject to ratification by the Assembly on 22 January 2018, through its Progress Report.

Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

Calendar 2018

15 January	:	Call for candidates
30 April	:	Deadline for reception of candidatures
End August	:	First meeting of the Selection Panel in Prague
3 September	:	Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly which will take note of the 3 shortlisted candidates
7 October	:	Second meeting of the Selection Panel in Strasbourg
8 October	:	Award Ceremony in the Council of Europe
Tbc	:	Conference in Prague



PRESS RELEASE

Communication Division

PACE 003 (2018)

Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2018: call for nominations

Strasbourg, 15.01.2018 – The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in partnership with the [Vaclav Havel Library](#) and the [Charta 77 Foundation](#), has today issued a call for nominations for the 2018 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize.

The Prize, created in 2013, aims to reward outstanding civil society action in defending human rights in Europe and beyond. Candidates should have made a real difference to the human rights situation of a given group, been instrumental in uncovering large-scale systemic violations, or have successfully mobilised public opinion or the international community for a cause.

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, which will be awarded on 8 October 2018 in Strasbourg, consists of a sum of €60,000, a trophy and a diploma.

Since 2013, it was awarded successively to Ales Bialiatski (Belarus), Anar Mammadli (Azerbaijan), Ludmilla Alexeeva (Russian Federation), Nadia Murad (Iraq), and last year to Murat Arslan (Turkey), in detention, former Rapporteur of the Constitutional Court and President of the now dissolved Association for the Union of Judges and Prosecutors (YARSAV).

The deadline for submitting nominations is **30 April 2018**. Nominations should be sent to the Parliamentary Assembly by e-mail to the following address: hrprize.pace@coe.int, using the [form](#) available on the Prize website. They should be signed by at least five sponsors and submitted in either English or French.

* * *

[Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#)
[Video](#)

For further information, please contact:

- **PACE:** Angela Garabagiu, tel. +33 3 90 21 45 20, angela.garabagiu@coe.int
- **Václav Havel Library:** Radka Prošková, tel. +420 222 220 112, radka.proskova@vaclavhavel-library.org
- **Charta 77 Foundation:** Gabriela Švagrová, tel. +420 224 214 452, gabriela.svagrova@bariery.cz

assembly.coe.int | pace.com@coe.int | Twitter | YouTube | Facebook | Flickr

The Assembly brings together 324 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states. President: Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) - Secretary General of the Assembly: Wojciech Sawicki. Political groups: EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); SOC (Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group); EC (European Conservatives Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left); FDG (Free Democrats Group).