



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parliamentary Project Support Division
Division de soutien de projets parlementaires

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Parliamentary Co-operation activities

WORK PLAN 2016

1. Introduction

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

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

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

Through the activities proposed in the 2016 Work Plan (see Appendix 1) and building on the initiatives carried out during 2015 (see Appendix 2), it is intended to ensure that the PACE's key recommendations are better known by national parliaments of Member States and beyond, in partner for democracy parliaments².

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

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

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

2. Sources of finance and activities

A number of proposed activities will be financed from the PACE ordinary budget. These include some multilateral parliamentary seminars on supervision of the execution of the judgments of the ECHR, on media freedom, the European Social Charter and on combating corruption, as well as meetings of the parliamentary Network of Women Free from Violence, of the Network to stop sexual violence against children and of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance. As it happened in previous years the Secretary General has written to the heads of national delegations of PACE requesting voluntary contributions for the two first Networks. In addition, financial resources for the implementation of activities will be provided from outside the ordinary budget of the Assembly.

2.a) CoE/ EU financed Programmes already in the process of implementation

Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (EaP)

This co-operation framework aims at providing assistance to the reinforcement of democratic reforms in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

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

The Secretariat of PACE has prepared project proposals in relation to all themes (following the Presidential elections in Belarus in October 2015, this country's Parliament is also invited to participate in the projects).

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

² During 2012 PACE started its co-operation activities with the Parliament of Morocco in the framework of the Joint Programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union "Strengthening the democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood region".

The proposals have been mostly designed at regional level, aimed at organising peer to peer seminars for Members of Parliaments of the region and information / training workshops for the staff of the Parliaments. A few activities will be implemented at national level, mainly on human rights related issues.

South Programme (South)

The Assembly also takes part in the implementation of the second phase of the joint Programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union “Strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Mediterranean”. The Secretariat of the Assembly presented a preliminary list of initiatives for cooperation with the national Parliaments of Morocco, National Palestinian Council (in the framework of their Partnership for democracy status) and Jordan. The proposal foresees regional and national seminars to be organised for Members of Parliaments, as well as for their staff.

2.b) CoE/EU Projects Expected to be launched in 2016

South Eastern Partnership / EU-CoE South Eastern Europe Horizontal Facility (HF) 2016-2018

Another framework agreement is foreseen concerning the countries of South East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”). A preliminary discussion on the structure of the programme, including a parliamentary dimension, is at present under way. A decision on the final project is only expected by early 2016, hence the PACE proposals have not been included in this programme for the time being.

The framework of the SEE Horizontal Facility Programme is based on the monitoring results in the respective countries conducted by the Council of Europe independent bodies and it focuses on four thematic areas: development of justice system, anti-corruption, anti-discrimination and media.

The Secretariat of the PACE was invited to propose parliamentary projects according to these four pillars both by country of operation and in a regional setting.

2.c) Projects submitted for Voluntary Contributions (VC)

Six Council of Europe wide multilateral projects have been submitted by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Committee of Ministers for voluntary contributions, involving different sectors and institutions of the Council of Europe on: democratic society, social rights, combating corruption, no hate, diaspora and immigrant children. Within this context “Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children” presented by the Secretariat of the Migration Committee, with the backings of the Swiss delegation to PACE, has received financial support from the Swiss Government for the period of October 2015 - September 2016. It is expected that other initiatives linked to the activities of the PACE Committees receive further voluntary contributions in 2016. These projects have been included in the draft CoE programme and budget for 2016 - 2017 projects requiring voluntary contributions.

* All reference to Kosovo in this text, whether to the territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Appendix 1

Thematic overview of activities to be organised in 2016

The following table presents the activities planned for 2016, for which funding is already confirmed, under the PACE's ordinary budget, or committed from extra budgetary contributions

PACE ¹	Theme / Objective	Specific Activities	Tentative Date	Tentative Venue
AS/POL	Implementation of the partnership for democracy with the Parliament of Morocco	1 parliamentary seminar on specific policies or legislative issues		Rabat
		Capacity-building activities for staff of the Parliament of Morocco (tbc)		Rabat
AS/POL	Development of the co-operation with the Parliament of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	1 parliamentary seminar on specific policies or legislative issues		Amman
		Capacity building activities for staff of the Parliament of Jordan		Amman/ Strasbourg
AS/POL	Implementation of the partnership for democracy with Palestinian National Council	Capacity building activities for staff of the Palestinian National Council		Ramallah/ Strasbourg
AS/POL	Regional activities	Organisation of a regional conference on the role of Parliaments in the Middle East and the Southern Mediterranean, with participants from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestinian National Council (tbc)		tbc
AS/JUR	Parliamentary mechanisms and structures for the supervision of the execution of the ECtHR's judgments	1 multilateral parliamentary seminar		tbc
		1 country specific seminar for MPs of Georgia	3-4 May	Tbilisi (EaP) ²
AS/JUR	Capacity building on the European Convention on Human Rights Mechanism for staff	1 country specific seminar for staff of the Georgian Parliament	25-26 April	Strasbourg (EaP)
		1 multilateral parliamentary seminar	September	Strasbourg

¹ The activity falls within the terms of reference of the Committee(s) indicated below

² Eastern Partnership Project

PACE	Theme / Objective	Specific Activities	Tentative Date	Tentative Venue
AS/JUR	Promotion of whistle-blower protection legislation	1 multilateral parliamentary seminar	Second half 2016	Budapest (tbc)
AS/CULT	Improve freedom, independence, pluralism and diversity of media	Regional parliamentary seminar	11 April	London (EaP)
	The role of Parliaments in ensuring media access during electoral campaigns**	Regional parliamentary seminar	4 July	Berlin (EaP)
AS/CULT AS/PRO	Co-operation between Parliaments and media against corruption	1 multilateral parliamentary seminar	September	Rome (tbc)
AS/CULT	Development of European Parliamentary Technology Assessment Capabilities	1 multilateral parliamentary seminar	20-21 October	Vienna
AS/SOC	Effectively fighting sexual violence against children – Development of the Parliamentary Network	2 network meetings during part-sessions including production of two electronic newsletters	Part-sessions	Strasbourg
		1 external meeting of the Network of contact parliamentarians	17-19 October (tbc)	Wilton Park, UK
AS/SOC	Impact enhancing measures concerning the European Social Charter	A multilateral parliamentary seminar, on the 2014/2015 conclusions of the ECSR, focusing on labour rights	November/ December	Paris
AS/MIG	Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children	1 parliamentary seminar on “The negative effects of detention on Children”	January	Strasbourg
		1-day parliamentary seminar on alternatives to detention	March/ April	Strasbourg
		1 parliamentary seminar jointly with Swiss Govt and NGOs on the promotion of alternatives to immigration detention in Switzerland	1 June	Switzerland
		Round table on age assessment practices in the CoE member states	October	Strasbourg/ Paris
		Concluding Photo Exhibition with participation of MPs and civil society, Strasbourg, September (PACE Session); preparation of the study on immigration detention; advertisement video/short movie about the Campaign	September	Strasbourg
		Organisation of International Day of Action	18 December	Strasbourg

** Organised in cooperation with Election Observation Division

PACE	Theme / Objective	Specific Activities	Tentative Date	Tentative Venue
AS/MIG	Visits by members of national parliaments to places of detention of irregular migrants and asylum seekers in Europe	2 parliamentary visits + printing, publishing and distribution of a guide for Parliamentarians	tbc	tbc
AS/EGA	Violence against women – Development of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence	2 Network meetings during the part sessions	Apr / Oct	Strasbourg
		1 external meeting of Network	12 May	Berlin
		2 country specific seminars on promoting signature, ratification and implementation of Istanbul Convention	13 April	Netherlands
			First semester	Moldova (tbc)
AS/EGA	Parliamentarians against racism and intolerance – Development of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	2 multilateral parliamentary seminars	18 May	Stockholm
			2 nd Semester	Paris
		2 country specific seminars for parliamentarians; preparation of handbook; toolbox	4 April (tbc)	Italy
			September	Paris
		2 Alliance meetings during the part-sessions or Committee meetings	Jan / Oct	Strasbourg
AS/PRO	National parliaments and the ethic of responsibility: a way forward to transparency, representativeness and effectiveness	1 multilateral parliamentary conference	November	tbc
PACE	Seminar for the Secretaries of national delegations	Two day parliamentary seminar on the Council of Europe co-operation activities	22-23 April	Strasbourg
		1 parliamentary seminar	December	Paris

Appendix 2

Parliamentary co-operation activities 2016 - summary calendar of planned events (updated 09/03/16)

Date	Activity	Venue	Committee*
January part-session	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – One in Five	Strasbourg	AS/SOC
	Meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance		AS/ EGA
	Parliamentary seminar on “The negative effects of detention on children”		AS/MIG
4 April (tbc)	Country specific seminar for parliamentarians against racism and intolerance	Italy	AS/EGA
11 April	Regional parliamentary seminar national parliaments’ role in improving freedom, independence, pluralism and diversity of media	London (EaP)	AS/CULT
13 April	Country specific seminar on promoting signature, ratification and implementation of Istanbul Convention	The Hague	AS/EGA
April part-session	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – One in Five	Strasbourg	AS/SOC
	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – Women Free From Violence		AS/EGA
	Parliamentary seminar on alternatives to detention		AS/MIG
22-23 April	Seminars for secretaries of national delegations	Strasbourg	PACE
25-26 April	Country specific seminar for staff of the Georgian Parliament on capacity building on the ECHR Mechanism	Strasbourg (EaP)	AS/JUR
3-4 May	Country specific seminar on parliamentary mechanisms and structures for the supervision of the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights	Tbilisi (EaP)	AS/JUR
11 May	Round table on electoral standards and reform of the electoral legislation in Belarus (tbc)	Minsk	Election Observation Division
12 May	External meeting of the Network Women Free From Violence	Berlin	AS/EGA
18 May	External meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	Stockholm	AS/EGA
1st semester	Country specific seminar on promoting signature, ratification and implementation of Istanbul Convention	Moldova (tbc)	AS/EGA
1 June	Parliamentary seminar jointly with Swiss Govt and NGOs on the promotion of alternatives to immigration detention in Switzerland	Switzerland	AS/MIG
1st or 2nd semesters	2 parliamentary visits to places of detention of irregular migrants and asylum seekers in Europe		AS/MIG

Date	Activity	Venue	Committee*
June part-session	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – One in Five	Strasbourg	AS/SOC
4 July	Media freedom as a cornerstone for democratic elections**	Berlin (EaP)	AS/CULT
September	Country specific seminar for parliamentarians against racism and intolerance	Paris	AS/EGA
September	Multilateral seminar for staff on capacity building on the ECHR Mechanism	Strasbourg	AS/JUR
September	Round Table on “Co-operation between Parliaments and investigative media against corruption”	Rome (tbc)	AS/PRO AS/CULT
Sept - October part-session	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – One in Five	Strasbourg	AS/SOC
	Round table on age assessment practices in the CoE member states		AS/MIG
	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – Women Free From Violence and No Hate Alliance		AS/EGA
17-19 October (tbc)	External meeting of the Network of contact parliamentarians	Wilton Park, UK	AS/SOC
20-21 October	Multilateral parliamentary seminar on development of European Parliamentary Technology Assessment Capabilities	Vienna	AS/CULT
November	Multilateral parliamentary conference on national parliaments and the ethic of responsibility: a way forward to transparency, representativeness and effectiveness	tbc	AS/PRO
November/ December	Multilateral parliamentary seminar, on the 2014/2015 conclusions of the ECSR, focusing on labour rights	Paris	AS/SOC
2nd semester	Multilateral parliamentary seminar on promotion of whistle-blower protection legislation	Budapest(tbc)	AS/JUR
2nd semester	Multilateral parliamentary seminar against racism and intolerance – Development of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	Paris	AS/EGA
18 December	Organisation of International Day of Action	Strasbourg	AS/MIG
December	Parliamentary information seminar for secretariats of national delegations	Paris	PACE

Note: The shaded rows show the activities organised within the framework of part-sessions

* The activity falls within the terms of reference of the Committee(s) indicated below

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