



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

<http://assembly.coe.int>

Parliamentary Project Support Division
Division de soutien de projets parlementaires

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

PPSD (2017) 02
10 February 2017

Parliamentary Co-operation activities

SHORT WORK PLAN 2017

Introduction

The reform of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), leading to 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 the Assembly to better tailor its activities and priorities so that European-level debates find their way more easily to national parliaments.

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

Through the activities proposed in the 2017 Work Plan and building on the initiatives carried out during 2016, it is intended to ensure that some of the Assembly's key recommendations are better known by national parliaments of member States and beyond, in particular in parliaments having the status of partners for democracy.

These parliamentary seminars and capacity building workshops are often organised in conjunction with PACE Committee or Sub-committee meetings, thus underpinning the peer-to-peer character of the exchanges among lawmakers.

Importance has also been given to identifying issues and projects on which it will be possible to build in the medium-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 Assembly can usefully complement and reinforce initiatives taken by the Council of Europe at the inter-governmental level.

Sources of finance and activities

Some of the proposed activities will be financed from the Assembly ordinary budget. These include multilateral parliamentary seminars on supervision of the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (for which the Committee of Ministers has allocated specific funds for 2016 and 2017), on promoting children's rights, on the European Social Charter and on combating corruption, as well as meetings of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance. In addition, financial resources for the implementation of activities may be provided from outside the ordinary budget of the Assembly, including through voluntary contributions by national parliaments and governments. In this respect, in November 2016, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly wrote to the chairpersons of national delegations to the Assembly drawing their attention to some of these projects. The bulk of guaranteed financing, however, comes from CoE-EU joint programmes outside the Assembly budget, as follows:

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

CoE/EU financed Programmes already in the process of implementation

Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF¹)

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 the Assembly has prepared project proposals in relation to all themes. 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 parliaments. A few activities will be implemented at national level, mainly on human and social rights related issues. The prime aim of the planned multilateral seminars for 2017 (last year of the first part of the PCF's implementation period) will be to take stock of the achievements and lessons of the different projects and to define co-operation activities for the 2018-2020 period.

South Programme (SP II²)

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 parliament of Morocco, the National Palestinian Council (in the framework of their Partnership for democracy status) and the parliament of Jordan. The proposal foresees regional and national seminars to be organised for members of Parliaments, as well as for their staff.

Parliamentary dimension of the CoE Action Plans for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina (SEE³)

The Council of Europe Action Plans for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015-2017, adopted by the Committee of Ministers (and financed by the EU), include a number of activities aimed at empowering parliamentarians to improve legislation and operational mechanisms in four policy areas: Media, Corruption, Justice and Discrimination.

It is envisaged that the proposed activities are implemented through co-operation between relevant Committees of the Parliaments of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina and PACE. They would mainly involve the exchange of good practices with parliamentarians from other Council of Europe member States (peer to peer approach); in some cases they could include representatives from other institutions in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina or representatives of non-governmental organisations chosen by mutual agreement.

Strengthening the Parliamentary capacity to implement the Council of Europe standards and policies in Ukraine (UKR⁴)

The Assembly also takes part in the implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2015-2017, adopted by the Committee of Ministers and financed by voluntary contributions. For 2017, the Assembly secured financing for projects to target specific needs in increasing the awareness and capacity of parliamentarians and their staff in: the existing Council of Europe standards and policies; law-making and legislative drafting; developing of parliamentary mechanisms for the supervision of the ECtHR judgements' execution; supporting the ratification and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and further harmonisation of national laws aiming at combating domestic violence; supporting dialogue and co-operation between representatives of the Parliament and local authorities, as well as dialogue with the civil society.

¹ **PCF** Events financed by the Eastern Partnership (Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus) – joint programme with the EU (2015-2017)

² **SP II** Events financed by the South Programme II (Towards a strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean) – joint programme with the EU (2015-2017)

³ **SEE** South-Eastern Europe Council of Europe Action Plan for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina (15 months – from Oct 2016 to Dec 2017)

⁴ **UKR** Action Plan for Ukraine 2015-2017

Projects submitted for Voluntary Contributions (VC¹)

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, the Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children, thanks to the backing of the Swiss delegation to the Assembly, has received financial support from the Swiss Government in 2016, which was extended for 2017 as well. It is expected that other initiatives linked to the activities of various Assembly Committees receive further voluntary contributions in 2017. These projects have been included in the draft CoE programme and budget for 2016-2017 projects requiring voluntary contributions.

¹ VC Voluntary Contribution requested

Date	Activity	Venue	Committee*
January part-session		Strasbourg	
13 February	Multilateral seminar – Development of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	Berlin	AS/EGA
24 February	Country specific seminar on freedom of expression and the media	Tirana (SEE)	PPSD AS/CULT
2-3 March	Capacity building seminar on public policies for the staff of Moroccan Parliament	Rome (SP II)	AS/POL
15-16 March	Country specific seminar on the ECHR for MPs of the Georgian Parliament (tbc)	Borjomi (Georgia) (PCF)	AS/JUR
20 March	Meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	Paris	AS/EGA
End March / beg April	Country specific seminar on the fight against corruption, economic crime and organised crime	Tirana (SEE)	AS/PRO AS/JUR
3-4 April	Seminar on execution of ECHR judgments for MPs of Verkhovna Rada	Strasbourg (UKR)	PPSD AS/JUR
10-11 April (tbc)	Pilot training for MPs on visiting/monitoring places where children can be deprived of liberty as a result of immigration detention	tbc	AS/MIG
April	Country specific seminar on freedom of expression and the media	Sarajevo (SEE)	PPSD AS/CULT
April part-session	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – Women Free From Violence	Strasbourg	AS/EGA
28-29 April	Seminar for secretaries of national delegations	Strasbourg	PPSD
8-9 May	Parliamentary seminar on participation in political life, equal opportunities and democratic citizenship	Rabat (SP II)	AS/POL
25-26 May (tbc)	Seminar on effective law-making for MPs of Verkhovna Rada (tbc)	Kyiv (UKR)	PPSD AS/JUR
30 May	Parliamentary seminar for Jordanian MPs on political parties	Amman (SP II)	AS/POL
31 May	Seminar on children’s rights for countries yet having to ratify the Lanzarote Convention	Baku	AS/SOC
June part-session		Strasbourg	
2 June	Country specific seminar on the European Social Charter	Baku (PCF)	AS/SOC
12-13 June	Regional seminar for MPs of the EaP countries on ECHR	Budapest (PCF)	AS/JUR
June	Regional parliamentary seminar on the development of the parliamentary dimension of regional co-operation in electoral matters	Rome (tbc) (PCF)	Election Observation Division
June	Visit by MPs from Verkhovna Rada for peer to peer exchanges on good practices in law making (tbc)	Stockholm (tbc) (UKR)	PPSD

Date	Activity	Venue	Committee*
2 nd semester	Country specific capacity building seminar on the ECHR for staff of the Moldovan parliament	Strasbourg (PCF)	AS/JUR
2 nd semester	High level conference on “National parliaments and the ethic of responsibility: a way forward to transparency, representativeness and effectiveness” (tbc)	tbc	AS/PRO
2 nd semester	Multilateral parliamentary seminar on the promotion of whistle-blower protection legislation	Paris or Budapest	AS/JUR
2 nd semester	Country specific seminar on Parliaments and Technology Assessment Capabilities	Italy or Portugal (tbc)	AS/CULT
July	Consultative meeting between parliamentarians, local authorities and civil society to discuss practical issues regarding existing legislative framework (tbc)	Kyiv (UKR)	PPSD AS/JUR
4-5 September	Multilateral parliamentary seminar on the ECHR for MPs of member states	Paris	AS/JUR
21 September	Regional parliamentary seminar on freedom, independence, pluralism and diversity of media	Paris (tbc) (PCF)	AS/CULT
	Regional parliamentary conference on education on corruption	Paris (tbc) (PCF)	AS/PRO AS/CULT
September	Meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	tbc	AS/EGA
September	Capacity building seminar for staff of Moroccan Parliament	Strasbourg (SP II)	AS/POL
September	Regional parliamentary conference on Istanbul Convention	Riga	AS/EGA
September	Launching Conference of the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies	Lisbon (SP II)	AS/MIG
September	National seminar for parliamentarians against racism and intolerance	Tirana (SEE)	AS/EGA
September	Country specific seminar on Istanbul Convention for MPs of the Verkhovna Rada (tbc)	Kyiv (UKR)	AS/EGA
October part-session	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network Women Free From Violence	Strasbourg	AS/EGA
October	Seminar on effective law-making for MPs of Verkhovna Rada (tbc)	Kyiv (UKR)	PPSD AS/JUR
October	Capacity building seminar on the implementation of the partnership for democracy for staff of the Palestinian National Council	Strasbourg (SP II)	AS/POL
October	Parliamentary seminar to promote the CoE Convention against trafficking in Human Organs	Paris (VC)	AS/SOC
October	Seminar for MPs on improving national legislation with regard to the fight against racism , hatred, intolerance and discrimination	Tirana (SEE)	AS/EGA

Date	Activity	Venue	Committee*
October	Country specific seminar on the fight against corruption, economic crime and organised crime	Sarajevo (SEE)	AS/PRO AS/JUR
Oct - Nov	Parliamentary seminar on the role of parliaments in the evaluation of public policies	Rabat (SP II)	AS/POL
November (tbc)	1.5 day training seminar for MPs on visiting or monitoring places where children are deprived of liberty as a result of immigration procedures (including a visit with a child-rights and needs focus)	Tbc	AS/MIG
November	Multilateral parliamentary seminar on migration policies	Amman (SP II)	AS/MIG
November	Seminar on implementation of constitutional provisions focusing on parliamentary immunity	Tirana (SEE)	PPSD
November	Regional capacity building seminar on the ECHR for the staff of national parliaments of EaP countries	Paris or Strasbourg (PCF)	AS/JUR
November	Seminar for staff of the Verkhovna Rada on Council of Europe standards and policies	Strasbourg (UKR)	AS/JUR
Nov – Dec	Multilateral social rights seminar based on ECSR Conclusions 2016	Paris (PCF)	AS/SOC
December	Seminar for secretaries of national delegations	Paris	PACE
Activities Dates tbc			
	Regional conference on parliamentary democracy	Strasbourg (SP II)	AS/POL
	Capacity building activities for the staff of the Jordan Parliament	Strasbourg (SP II)	AS/POL
	Multilateral capacity building seminar on the ECHR for staff of national parliaments of Member States – creation of possible network of experts	Strasbourg	AS/JUR
	Parliamentary visit to place of detention of irregular migrants and asylum seekers in Europe	Tbc	AS/MIG
	Three national seminars on Istanbul Convention	Switzerland (VC)	AS/EGA
		Greece (VC)	
		Romania (VC)	
	National seminar on No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	Dublin (VC)	AS/EGA
	External meeting of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from violence	(VC)	AS/EGA

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*

PCF – Events financed by the Eastern Partnership (Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus) – joint programme with the EU (2015-2017);

SP II – Events financed by the South Programme II (Towards a strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean) – joint programme with the EU (2015-2017);

SEE – South-Eastern Europe Council of Europe Action Plan for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina (15 months – from Oct 2016 to Dec 2017);

UKR - Action Plan for Ukraine 2015-2017

VC - Voluntary Contribution requested