



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

<http://assembly.coe.int>



Information documents

SG-AS (2013) 07

17 September 2013

Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1178th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies¹ (18 September 2013)

¹ This document covers past activities of the Assembly since the meeting of the Bureau on 28 June 2013 (Strasbourg) and the future activities up to the meeting of the Bureau on 30 September 2013 (Strasbourg).

I. Decisions taken by the Bureau

A. Fourth part-session of 2013 (30 September – 4 October 2013)

On 2 September 2013, the Bureau drew up the draft agenda (Appendix 1).

B. Observation of elections

➤ Parliamentary elections in Albania (23 June 2013)

On 2 September 2013, the Bureau approved the final report of the ad hoc committee, which will be debated during the fourth part-session of the Assembly.

➤ Presidential election in Azerbaijan (9 October 2013)

On 2 September 2013, the Bureau approved the updated composition of the ad hoc committee.

➤ Presidential election in Georgia (27 October 2013)

On 2 September 2013, the Bureau approved the updated composition of the ad hoc committee.

➤ Schedule of elections 2013/2014

On 2 September 2013, the Bureau took note of the elections calendar 2013/2014 as presented in the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly (Appendix 2).

C. Other decisions taken by the Bureau on 2 September 2013

➤ Follow-up to Resolution 1941 (2013) on the request for the opening of a monitoring procedure in respect of Hungary

The Bureau referred the question of the situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013) to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*.

➤ World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 27-29 November 2013)

The Bureau took note of the suggestions from national delegations and members of the Bureau on the content of the draft programme of the Forum, held an exchange of views with Ms Snejana Samardzic-Markovic, Director General for Democracy of the Council of Europe, and decided to constitute an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum, to be composed of members proposed by all Assembly's committees, before the Bureau meeting on 4 October 2013.

➤ Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

The Bureau took note that the three candidates shortlisted by the Selection Panel of the Prize at its meeting in Prague on 26 August 2013 were (in alphabetical order): Mr Ales Bialiatski (Belarus), the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (Georgia) and the Rights Defence Network (China). This shortlist was drawn up by a selection panel comprising six independent figures and chaired the President of the Assembly on the basis of 27 candidatures which had fulfilled the criteria for the Prize.

On 29 September 2013, at a second meeting which will be held in Strasbourg, the panel will select the winner of the Prize. This will be officially announced by the President of the Assembly at 12.30 pm on the first day of the fourth part-session session, on 30 September 2013.

➤ **Request by the Parliament of Jordan for the status of Partner for Democracy with the Assembly**

On 25 July 2013, the President of the Assembly received an official request from the Presidents of both chambers of the Jordanian Parliament, requesting the status of Partner for Democracy with the Parliamentary Assembly. The formal request for the status contained the elements required in Article 61.2 of the Rules and Procedures of the Assembly and was thereby considered admissible.

The Bureau decided to refer the request to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*.

➤ **International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2013**

The Bureau approved a declaration, which was published in the framework of the International Day of Democracy (Appendix 3).

➤ **Bureau statements**

The Bureau approved statements on the situation in Egypt and Syria (Appendices 4 and 5 respectively).

➤ **Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities**

The Bureau appointed Mr Zoran Vukčević (Montenegro, SOC) to participate in the Fall Meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to be held in Budva, Montenegro, on 13-15 October 2013.

➤ **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris**

The Bureau authorised the following meetings:

- . *Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize* (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development): Tata, Hungary on 20 August 2013 and Altötting, Germany on 14 September 2013;
- . *Ad hoc Sub-Committee on the reform of international football* (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media): Nyon, Switzerland on 9 September 2013;
- . *Ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the Lisbon Forum* (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy): Lisbon, Portugal on 6-7 November 2013;
- . *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*: Lisbon, Portugal on 8 November 2013;

➤ **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2014**

On 2 September 2013, the Bureau approved the dates for meetings in 2014 (Appendix 6).

II. Activities of Committees

- On 16 July 2013 in Zurich, the **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on the Reform of International Football** (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media) held, at FIFA headquarters, an exchange of views on the progress of FIFA governance reform with the participation of Mr Joseph S. Blatter, President of FIFA, and his collaborators, as well as with Mr Domenico Scala, Chairman of the FIFA Audit and Compliance Committee.
- On 4 September 2013 in Paris, the **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights** held two hearings on:
 - “Revision of the European Convention on transfrontier television” (*Rapporteur: Mr James Clappison, United Kingdom, EDG*) with the participation of: Mr Tarlach McGONAGLE, Senior Researcher, Institute for Information Law (IViR), Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands and Mr Jean-Paul JACQUÉ, Honorary Director General and Special Counsellor to the Council of the European Union, Brussels, and visiting professor in College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium.

- “The European Convention on Human Rights: reinforcement and consolidation of the training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers” (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Pierre Michel, France, SOC*) with the participation of: Ms Christiane SCHMALTZ, ECHR training specialist, ad hoc Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Judge at the Court of Appeal in Schleswig Holstein, Germany; Ms Galina ARAPOVA, ECHR training specialist, Director of Mass Media Defence Centre (NGO), Russian Federation; Mr Laurent PETTITI, Lawyer, Chairperson of the Committee on relations between the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights, France; Ms Ivana ROAGNA, Lawyer, ECHR training specialist, Italy.

➤ 4-5 September 2013, Paris, the **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** held

- a hearing on *Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia*, with the participation of Mr Robert Örell, Director of EXIT Fryshuset, Stockholm, and Mr Hans Martens, Chief Executive, European Policy Centre, Brussels;
- a hearing on *Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict*, with the participation of Mr Driss El Yazami, President of the National Council for Human Rights of Morocco; Ms Hasna Abouzaid, member of the Moroccan Parliament; Ms Senia Ahmed Merhba, representative of the Polisario Front; Mr Omar Mansour, representative of the Polisario Front; and Mr Djamel Ouldabbes, member of the Algerian Council of the Nation;
- an exchange of views on *The political transition in Egypt*, with the participation of Mr Tewfick Aclimandos, Research Associate at the Chair of Modern History of the Arab World at the College of France, specialist in Egyptian history, and Mr Richard Atwood, Director of Research, International Crisis Group;
- an exchange of views on *The political transition in Tunisia*, with the participation of Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Deputy Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

➤ On 9 September 2013 in Paris, the **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development** held an exchange of views on “Child friendly justice / Children in detention” with Dr Beate Matschnig, Judge, Vienna Regional Court for Criminal Matters (Austria) and Prof. Dr Ton Liefwaard, Professor of Children's Rights, School of Law, Leiden University (The Netherlands).

➤ On 9 September 2013 in Nyon and Geneva (Switzerland), the **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on the Reform of International Football** (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media) held meetings with Mr Michel Platini, President of UEFA, and his collaborators, as well as with Mr Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, President of ECA (European Club Association) and his collaborators.

➤ On 10 September 2013 in Paris, the **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons** held a hearing on “immigration detention of children” with the participation of Mr Giorgi Tugushi, (former Ombudsman of Georgia, member of CPT), Mr Mitchell (International Detention Coalition) and with Mr Boutruche (UNHCR).

➤ On 16-17 September 2013 in Madrid, the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination** and the **Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence** met jointly and held:

- an exchange of views with the Spanish authorities with the participation of Ms Celia Villalobos, Vice-Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, Mr José M^a Beneyto, Chairperson of the Spanish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality of the Congress of Deputies and Ms Blanca Hernández, Spanish Government Commissioner for Gender-based violence.
- a hearing on “The economic dimensions of violence against women” with the participation of Mr Javier Truchero, lawyer, former representative of Spain at the Ad hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO) and Ms Melissa Morbeck, Executive Director of the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence (CAADV).

- A hearing on Legislation on same-sex marriage in Spain with the participation of Ms Carmen Plaza, Director General for Equal Opportunities, Ministry for Health, Social Services and Equality, Director of the Spanish Institute for Women's Affairs and Mr Ronny de la Cruz Carbonel, Vice-president, COGAM Colectivo LGBT of Madrid. The closing address was made by Mr Juan Manuel Moreno, Secretary of State for Social Affairs and Equality.

- On 24 September in Brussels, the **Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society** (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media) will organise, together with a Madrid-based human rights NGO Access Info Europe a conference on transparency of media ownership, as part of the co-operation activities of the Parliamentary Projects Support Division and in the framework of the preparation of a report on this subject by Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC).

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

- ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation***

Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) and **Mr Andreas Gross** (Switzerland, SOC), Co-rapporteurs of the *Monitoring Committee*, carried out a fact-finding visit to the Russian Federation from **1 to 5 July 2013**

- ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by Montenegro***

Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) and **Mr Kimmo Sasi** (Finland, EPP/CD), Co-rapporteurs of the *Monitoring Committee*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Montenegro from **7 to 10 July 2013**

- ***Good governance of large metropolises***

Mr Jeffrey Donaldson (United Kingdom, EDG), Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, carried out a fact-finding mission to London **18 July 2013**.

- ***Syrian refugees in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq: how to organize and support international assistance?***

Mr Jean-Marie Bockel (France, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*, carried out a fact-finding visit to Lebanon and Turkey from **19 to 22 August 2013**.

- ***Prostitution and human trafficking in Europe***

Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for the *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination* will carry out a fact-finding visit to Switzerland from **25-26 September 2013**.

IV. Relations with the Committee of Ministers

- On 2-3 September 2013 in Yerevan, **Mr Paolo Corsini** (Italy, SOC), member and rapporteur of the **Committee on Culture, Science Education and Media**, representing the President of the Assembly, participated in the Council of Europe 2013 Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue on the theme: "Freedom of religion in today's world: challenges and guarantees".

V. Relations with the Venice Commission

- On 5 September 2013 in Paris, Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission, took part in an exchange of views on the political transition in Tunisia organised by the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*.

VI. Co-operation with the European Parliament

- On 28 June 2013, the Bureau took note of an information memorandum prepared by the Secretariat regarding co-operation between the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during the period from January to June 2013.
- On 12-13 September 2013 in Marseille, **Mr Carlos Costa Neves** (Portugal, EPP/CD), **Ms Vesna Marjanovic** (Serbia, SOC), **Mr Nicos Nicolaides** (Cyprus, SOC) and **Mr Petros Tatsopoulos** (Greece, UEL), members of the **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**, participated in the Marseille Forum on the social value of heritage and the value of heritage for the society (implementation of the European Cultural Convention of Faro of the Council of Europe), organised by the city of Marseille with the support of the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

VII List of meetings of the committees, the Bureau and the Presidential Committee

4 September 2013, Paris: *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*

4-5 September 2013, Paris: *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*

6 September 2013, Paris: *Committee on the Honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*

9 September 2012, Paris: *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.*

10 September 2013, Paris: *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*

14 September 2013, Altötting (Germany): *Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize (Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) in the framework of the presentation of the 2013 Europe Prize to Altötting town*

17 September 2013, Madrid: *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*

24 September 2013, Brussels: *Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media)*

29 September 2013, Strasbourg: *Joint meeting of the Presidential Committee and the Committee Chairpersons and meeting of the Presidential Committee*

29 September 2013, Strasbourg: *Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights)*

29 September 2013, Strasbourg: *Meeting of the Panel of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize*

Appendix 1



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 13295 prov 1
13 September 2013

**4th part of the 2013 Ordinary Session (30 September –
4 October 2013)**

Draft agenda¹

1. Drawn up by the Bureau of the Assembly on 2 September 2013.
Updated, under the authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly, to reflect modifications to be proposed to the Bureau of the Assembly before the opening of the part-session (modifications are indicated in grey).

Legends and abbreviations

List of committees

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

List of political groups

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

SOC: Socialist Group

ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

EDG: European Democrat Group

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: 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: 09:30-11:00

Monday: 17:30-19:30

Wednesday: 08:30-10:00

Sitting No. 28 (11:30-13:00)

1. Opening of the part-session

1.1. Statement by the President

1.2. Examination of credentials

- List of delegations:
 - o (Doc.)

1.3. Election of Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

1.4. Changes in the membership of committees

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

1.5.1. Urgent procedure debate on "The situation in Syria"

1.6. Adoption of the agenda

2. Debate

2.1. Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee

- Presentation by:
 - o Mr Davit HARUTYUNYAN (Armenia, EDG), Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc.)

2.2. Observation of the parliamentary elections in Albania (23 June 2013)

- Presentation by:
 - o Mr Petros TATSOPOULOS (Greece, UEL), Rapporteur Ad hoc Committee AS/Bur (Doc. 13296)

List of speakers

3. Prize Award Ceremony (12:30-13:00)

3.1. Václav Havel Human Rights Prize²

Sitting No. 29 (15:00-17:30)

4. Debate (15:00-15:30)

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

4.2. Observation of the parliamentary elections in Albania (23 June 2013) (continued)

List of speakers

[possibly] Vote

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

5.1. Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly

- Presentation by:
 - o Mr Edward NALBANDIAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers

Questions

Written questions (deadline for tabling: Monday 23 September, 11:30)

2. See programme published separately (AS/Inf (2013) ...).

6. Debate (16:30-17:30)

6.1. Free debate

 List of speakers

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

7. [Possibly] Election

7.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

- ☐ List of candidates in respect of:
 - Romania [tbc], (Doc.)

8. Debate

8.1. The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2012-2013

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - Mr Dirk Van der MAELEN (Belgium, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Pol (Doc. 13301)
 - Mr Valeriu GHILETCHI (Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Soc (Doc.)
- ☐ Statement by:
 - Mr Angel GURRÍA, Secretary General of the OECD

- 📖 List of speakers
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 30 September, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 13301)

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

9.1. Mr Sergey NARYSHKIN, Speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

- 📖 Questions

Sitting No. 31 (15:30-20:00)

10. [Possibly] Election (continued) (15:30-17:00)

10.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

11. Debate

11.1. Children's right to physical integrity

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - Ms Marlene RUPPRECHT (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 13297)

- 📖 List of speakers
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 30 September, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 13297)

12. Debate

12.1. The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (June 2012 – September 2013)

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - Mr Andres HERKEL (Estonia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc.)

- 📖 List of speakers
- ⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Monday 30 September, 16:00)
- 🗳️ Vote on ... ()

Wednesday 2 October 2013

Sitting No. 32 (10:00-13:00)

13. [Possibly 2nd round] Election

13.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

- ☐ List of candidates in respect of:
 - o Romania [tbc], (Doc.)

14. Debate

14.1. National security and access to information

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Arcadio DÍAZ TEJERA (Spain, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 13293)
 - o Mr Hans FRANKEN (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Cult (Doc.)

☞ List of speakers

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 1 October, 10:30)

🔔 Votes on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation (Doc. 13293)

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

15.1. Mr Serzh SARGSYAN, President of Armenia

☞ Questions

Sitting No. 33 (15:30-20:00)

16. [Possibly 2nd round] Election (continued) (15:30-17:00)

16.1. Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

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

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

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Thorbjørn JAGLAND

☞ Questions

18. Debate

18.1. The functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ☐ Presentation by:
 - o Mr Egidijus VAREIKIS (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 13300)
 - o Ms Karin S. WOLDSETH (Norway, EDG), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc. 13300)

☞ List of speakers

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 1 October, 16:00)

🔔 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 13300)

19. Debate

19.1. The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Republic of Moldova

📄 Presentation by:

- Ms Lise CHRISTOFFERSEN (Norway, SOC), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc.)
- Mr Piotr WACH (Poland, EPP/CD), Co-Rapporteur AS/Mon (Doc.)

📄 List of speakers

🕒 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Tuesday 1 October, 16:00)

🗳️ Vote on ... ()

Thursday 3 October 2013

Sitting No. 34 (10:00-13:00)

20. [Possibly] Debate under urgent procedure or current affairs debate³

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

21.1. Mr Tomislav NIKOLIĆ, President of Serbia

 Questions

Sitting No. 35 (15:30-20:00)

22. Debate

22.1. Missing persons from Europe's conflicts: the long road to finding humanitarian answers

 Presentation by:

o Mr Jim SHERIDAN (United Kingdom, SOC), Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 13294)

 Statement by:

o Mr Peter MAURER, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

 List of speakers

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 2 October, 16:00)

 Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 13294)

23. Debate

23.1. Food security

 Presentation by:

o Mr Fernand BODEN (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc.)

 List of speakers

 Amendments (deadline for tabling: Wednesday 2 October, 16:00)

 Vote on ... ()

3. Subject to a decision by the Assembly.

Friday 4 October 2013

Sitting No. 36 (10:00-13:00)

24. Debate

24.1. Combating discrimination against older persons on the labour market

- Presentation by:
 - Ms Sahiba GAFAROVA (Azerbaijan, EDG), Rapporteur AS/Ega (Doc. 13292)
 - Mr Margus HANSON (Estonia, ALDE), Rapporteur for opinion AS/Soc (Doc.)

📖 List of speakers

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 3 October, 10:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 13292)

25. Debate

25.1. Strengthening the institution of Ombudsman in Europe

- Presentation by:
 - Mr Jordi XUCLÀ (Spain, ALDE), Rapporteur AS/Jur (Doc. 13236)

📖 List of speakers

⌚ Amendments (deadline for tabling: Thursday 3 October, 10:30)

🗳️ Vote on a draft resolution (Doc. 13236)

26. Closure of the part-session

Appendix 2

Schedule of Elections in 2013-2014

Memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly

1. The revised guidelines for the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, specify that "observation of parliamentary and presidential elections, as well as referenda in an applicant State or a State under the monitoring procedure, should be an inalienable right of the Assembly" (paragraph 2). They further state that "the Bureau may also decide to observe parliamentary and/or presidential elections, as well as referenda, in a State that is subject to the post-monitoring dialogue" (paragraph 3); "the Bureau may decide to observe elections in other States when exceptional circumstances have been brought to its attention" (paragraph 5).
2. The table below lists elections/referenda to be held in 2013-2014.
3. The Bureau is invited to take a decision, where this has not already been done, on the numerical strength of its ad hoc committees to observe elections scheduled to take place in 2013-2014.

Elections Calendar 2013

COUNTRY	TYPE	DATE	STATUS	REMARKS	BUREAU DECISION TAKEN
Monaco	Parliamentary	10 February	Post-monitoring	Invitation received	- 1 member for each political group + 1 rapporteur
Armenia	Presidential (pre-electoral mission)	16-17 January	Monitoring	Invitation received	- 1 member for each political group + 2 co-rapporteurs
	Presidential (observation mission)	18 February			- 20 members based on d'Hondt + 2 co-rapporteurs
Montenegro	Presidential	7 April	Monitoring	Invitation received	- 1 member for each political group + 2 co-rapporteurs
Bulgaria	Parliamentary (pre-electoral mission)	4-5 April	Post-monitoring	Invitation received	- 1 member for each political group + 1 rapporteur
	Parliamentary (observation mission)	12 May			- 20 members based on d'Hondt + 1 rapporteur
Albania	Parliamentary (pre-electoral mission)	10-11 June	Monitoring	Invitation received	- 1 member for each political group + 2 co-rapporteurs
	Parliamentary (observation mission)	23 June			- 30 members based on d'Hondt + 2 co-rapporteurs
Azerbaijan	Presidential (pre-electoral mission)	10-13 September	Monitoring	Invitation received	- 1 member for each political group + 2 co-rapporteurs
	Presidential (observation mission)	9 October			- 30 members based on d'Hondt + 2 co-rapporteurs
	Presidential (possible 2 nd round)	October/November			- 30 members based on d'Hondt + 2 co-rapporteurs
Georgia	Presidential (pre-electoral mission)	23-26 September	Monitoring	Invitation received	- 1 member for each political group + 2 co-rapporteurs
	Presidential (observation mission)	27 October			- 30 members based on d'Hondt + 2 co-rapporteurs
	Presidential (possible 2 nd round)	November			- 30 members based on d'Hondt + 2 co-rapporteurs

Elections Calendar 2014

COUNTRY	TYPE	DATE	STATUS	REMARKS	BUIREAU DECISION
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Presidential (pre-electoral)	February 2014	Post-monitoring	Invitation not received	No decision
	Presidential (observation 1 st round)	March 2014			
	Presidential (possible 2 nd round)	March 2014			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	General elections (pre-electoral)	September 2014	Monitoring	Invitation not received	No decision
	General elections (observation)	October 2014			
Moldova	Parliamentary (pre-electoral)	2014	Monitoring	Invitation not received	No decision
	Parliamentary (observation)				
Turkey	Presidential (pre-electoral)	2014	Post-monitoring dialogue	Invitation not received	No decision
	Presidential (observation 1 st round)				
	Presidential (possible 2 nd round)				

International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2013

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Today many voices continue to be raised in alarm claiming that the world is not only facing a financial and economic crisis but that citizens' trust in democratic institutions is also in crisis, as evidenced by voter fatigue and a decline in the public image of politicians. Populist, radical or xenophobic political movements, protest votes and the emergence of hate speech are gaining ground. The increasing importance of supranational decision-making organisations such as WTO, EU, IMF, etc... reinforces the feeling of powerlessness of political institutions, in the context of an increasingly globalised economy, whereas democratic legitimacy remains at national level. Extremist parties grow in influence by providing populist, but easy to understand responses, based on a closure of borders, in the face of a complex reality and an uncertain future. Furthermore, democracy today is in a process of transformation, as it grapples with the new realities of a post-modern era where political parties are no longer the only vehicles for citizens' participation in political life. Social networks and civil society highlight new emerging challenges.

In this regard, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe welcomes the 2013 Day of Democracy's focus on strengthening voices for democracy. It urges national parliaments to adapt to societal and technological developments and improve communication channels with the public. Through Internet, social networks, parliamentary television channels and/or civil society associations, parliaments can improve contact with the younger generations. Parliaments should also promote new ways for the people to express their views, beyond the traditional forms of mandate and delegation: the setting up of participatory and deliberative processes and structures, transnational networks formed by citizens to address specific issues, citizenship education and political training can be useful tools. Improving the transparency of rules of financing political parties and campaigns and bringing corrupt politicians and officials to justice would restore public trust in parliaments. A greater inclusion of women, youth and minorities would reinforce their representativeness and credibility.

The Parliamentary Assembly firmly believes that the Council of Europe is in a unique position to bridge the confidence gap and bring together elected politicians with civil society leaders. Together, they could better find ways to enable representative democracy face current societal and technological challenges, such as those raised by the social media. In this context, it wishes to highlight particularly the forthcoming World Forum for Democracy organised by the Council of Europe which is this year entitled "Re-wiring Democracy: connecting institutions and citizens in the digital age" (Strasbourg, 27-29 November 2013). The Forum will provide a timely platform for a genuine, inclusive dialogue on change and the future of democracy and help to shape future action by the Organisation, its institutions and member States.

Appendix 4

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly on Egypt

Strasbourg, 02.09.2013 – The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting today in Dubrovnik (Croatia), called for an inclusive reconciliation process and political dialogue in Egypt which would prevent any further recourse to violence, allow a return to stability and create conditions for the organisation of free and fair elections as soon as possible. A military intervention is not a solution for democratic deficits. The interim authorities should implement without delay a roadmap for the normalisation of the political climate in the country and for the restoration of democratic rule in Egypt.

Shocked by the number of deaths caused by the intervention of the police in dispersing pro-Morsi gatherings, but also concerned about acts of violence committed by demonstrators, including attacks against religious minorities' places of worship, the Bureau called for an independent investigation into the killings and all acts of violence, whoever has committed them.

The Assembly, through its Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, is following closely the situation in Egypt. The Committee will hold a hearing on Egypt at its meeting on 4 September 2013 in Paris.

Appendix 5

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly on Syria

Strasbourg, 02.09.2013 - The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting today in Dubrovnik (Croatia), condemned the apparent use of chemical weapons in Syria which, on 21 August 2013, caused the death of hundreds of people, including a large number of children. Any use of chemical weapons anywhere by anybody, under any circumstances, constitutes a violation of international law and a crime against humanity. The Bureau calls on the international community to take action to pressurise those countries which have not yet done so to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention. It also calls for urgent action to bring the stocks of chemical weapons in Syria under international control to prevent access to them by those supporting or opposing the current Government.

The Bureau recalls that in its Resolutions 1878 (2012) on the situation in Syria and 1902 (2012) on the European response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, the Assembly urged a political solution to the conflict in Syria. Today, more than a year and a half later, the escalation of violence makes the need for a diplomatic process more urgent than ever. All parties concerned, both inside and outside the country, should, without further delay, move beyond their differences towards a peace conference on Syria. The use of arms can never lead to sustainable peace and is therefore not an option; only a political solution can put an end to the spiral of violence, but also to the dramatic situation of refugees and displaced persons.

The Bureau of the Assembly is particularly appalled by the huge number of refugees, especially of children, forced to flee Syria which, according to UN estimates, has reached one million. It urges once more the provision of unhindered humanitarian assistance to the wounded, refugees, displaced persons and all those in need both in Syria and in the neighbouring countries.

Appendix 6

Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2014

Preliminary proposals for dates²

Monday 27 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 31 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 6 March, 3.00 pm, Paris	Bureau
Friday 7 March, 9.00 am, Paris (to be confirmed)	Standing Committee
Monday 7 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 11 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 22 May, Baku, Azerbaijan	Bureau
Friday 23 May, Baku, Azerbaijan	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 23 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 27 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 1 September, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 29 September, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 3 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
November, Brussels, Belgium (date to be confirmed)	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 15 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau

² Dates of meetings due to be held elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris are subject to the conclusion of a formal agreement with the Parliament of the country concerned.