

January 2023 part-session highlights:

PACE Session
23-27 January
2023 & more

IN THIS ISSUE:

Highlights

Elections &
appointments

War in Ukraine:
accountability
system

Rapporteurs

Questions

Speakers

ALDE
members

- Elections & appointments: **Bertrand Bouyx** (France) and **Franziska Hoop** (Liechtenstein) join ALDE-PACE bureau as vice-presidents; ALDE welcomes the re-election of **Damien Cottier** (Switzerland) as chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and congratulates **Yevheniia Kravchuk** (Ukraine) on her election as chair of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media
- **Council of Europe's summit of heads of state and government, Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023**: the report by ALDE group's vice-president and Irish delegation chair Fiona O'Loughlin puts forward several proposals on how to reinvigorate the Council of Europe, including through building a system of accountability for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, addressing the new generation of rights, such as the right to a healthy environment, and reinforcing the Organisation's role in fostering democracy with the help of the new Commissioner for Democracy. [Watch interview with Fiona O'Loughlin](#)
- **Women's rights**: a new report by **Petra Stienen** (Netherlands) examined the role of men and boys in stopping gender-based violence against women and girls. "The men who are engaged in the fight against gender-based violence do not take space away from women. There's a space for everyone in this fight," declared Petra Stienen in the plenary debate. [Watch interview with Petra Stienen](#)

ALDE also welcomed the entry into force of [Resolution 2394 \(2021\)](#) on Gender representation in the Parliamentary Assembly based on the report prepared by our former member **Nicole Trisse** (France). Representation of women in PACE delegations and appointments now has to reach at least 30%.

- ALDE continued calling for a **system of accountability for the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine** and exchanged views with **Oleksandra Matviichuk**, chair of the Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties, 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and Russian opposition and anti-war activists, including **Garry Kasparov**

We thank all members who took part in the group's work, defended the liberal position in debates, presented reports and participated in our meetings. We welcome new members who joined ALDE-PACE since the last part-session and wish them good work.

ALDE endeavours to be the engine of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe defending the core European values.

Visit website: www.alde-pace.org



ELECTIONS &
APPOINTMENTS

Elections and Appointments

ALDE-PACE welcomes two new Vice-Presidents of the Group:



Bertrand Bouyx (France)



Franziska Hoop (Liechtenstein)

Bertrand Bouyx and Franziska Hoop are also delegation chairs of France and Liechtenstein respectively.

PACE Committee Chairs:



Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine) was elected new chair of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media



Damien Cottier (Switzerland) re-elected chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

New reports:

Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia) appointed rapporteur for two reports:

AS/Jur: Sanctions of persons on the "Kara-Murza list" (Doc. 15632), Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

AS/Mon: The honouring of obligations and commitments by Hungary, Monitoring Committee

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: the need for an effective accountability system



WAR IN
UKRAINE :
ACCOUNTABILITY
SYSTEM

During the January part-session, ALDE rapporteurs **Fiona O'Loughlin and Damien Cottier** spoke with one voice in favour of the establishment of an effective accountability system, including an ad hoc tribunal for the crime of aggression.

"It is essential that not only war crimes and crimes against humanity –the competence of Ukrainian justice and the International Criminal Court– are prosecuted, but also the crime of aggression, namely the decision to start the conflict, the most serious crime of all because it is the root cause of all others," declared Damien Cottier presenting his report on Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine.



The recommendation based on the report prepared by Fiona O'Loughlin putting forward PACE's proposals for the upcoming Reykjavik Summit called on the heads of state and government of the Council of Europe to show unwavering support for Ukraine and to play an active and leading role in creating an ad hoc tribunal to prosecute Russia's political and military leadership for the crime of aggression, as well as supporting an international compensation mechanism.

ALDE initiated a visit to the Council of Europe and its Assembly by **Oleksandra Matviichuk**, chair of the Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties, 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. ALDE exchanged views with Ms Matviichuk and welcomed her excellent [contribution](#) to the plenary debate.

The issue of justice and reparations for the war in Ukraine were also at the centre of ALDE-PACE's exchange of views with **Garry Kasparov** and other Russian opposition figures on 25 January.



(left to right)

Ivan Tyutrin, co-founder of the Free Russia Forum

Anastasiia Shevchenko, activist of the global anti-war movement of Russia

Dmitry Gudkov, member of the Russian Action Committee

Garry Kasparov, co-founder of the Russian Action Committee, chairman of the Human Rights Foundation, member of Anti-war committee of Russia

Iulian Bulai, ALDE group leader in PACE



ALDE REPORTS



Fiona O'LOUGHLIN (Ireland)

- **The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges**

AS/Pol ([Doc. 15681](#), [Doc. 15681 Add.](#))

Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



Petra STIENEN (Netherlands)

- **The role and responsibility of men and boys in stopping gender-based violence against women and girls**

AS/EGA ([Doc. 15678](#))

Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



Damien COTTIER (Switzerland)

- **Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine**

AS/Jur ([Doc. 15689](#))

Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



Damien COTTIER (Switzerland)

Initiative: Fabien GOUTTEFARDE (France)

- **Emergence of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) and their necessary apprehension through European human rights law**

AS/Jur ([Doc. 15683](#))

Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



QUESTIONS

Question to Ms Annalena BAERBOCK, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany



Ms Petra STIENEN (Netherlands) - On behalf of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, I

would like to complement you for your leadership on feminist foreign policy.

All of us know that as long as half of the population lacks in opportunities to getting good education, good health care, good job opportunities, and to participate in the political arena without being attacked, or the misogyny all of us know many women get, we don't have human security.

But Madam Minister, actions speak louder than words. So on behalf of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, we really would like to know how are you going to bring this leadership into practice? Not only for the people inside of Europe, but also for the people in Iran. We have a large Iranian diaspora in many of our cities. And also for the people in Ukraine.

We just had a report adapted on sexual violence in conflict situations. So yes, wonderful that you want to have this tribunal, but how can we ensure that also accountability will take place on these horrible acts of sexual violence against women, girls, men and boys? Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



Ms Annalena BAERBOCK - Thank you for this important question. Because words only matter when they come into practice. [...] Coming back to your question, we have to look at our individual national cases. How we can strengthen the law there. We have to work on the ICC, that they also

bring these cases to justice. We have to work with regards to Iran. This is why I was lobbying so much for the Human Rights Council resolution, that we have an investigation in Iran. Obviously, nobody can go there. But the same as in Ukraine.

We have to collect the evidence now, maybe even from outside. We have to set up a special prosecution division that at some point, like with Yazidi woman, back in time, we collect the evidence and we bring the perpetrators to justice in the name of the victims.

So it's a lot of work, again, on the judicial part, but naming them today is the first step that accountability comes into play at some point. This means also naming the Revolutionary Guard as what they are. I believe they are terrorising their own citizens in Iran. So obviously, they are a terrorist organisation.

So far, we are not clear whether we have the legal ground that we can put them on the sanction regime also in the European Union. This is more than true because we had a legal debate yesterday in the Parliament, and this is a German colleague, we discussed it all in our committee on foreign affairs. Because the sanctioned regime of the terrorists was set up for the 9/11 case. So yesterday, the colleagues from France, from The Netherlands, and myself, we called on the legal service of the European Union to identify whether and how this will be possible.

Because we shouldn't forget, our strongest power is that the people in Europe believe and have the trust in the rule of law. That means even in the most difficult times, like setting up a sanctions regime. This has to be based on the rule of law, that it can also prevail at the end in front of the court, and therefore, sometimes it takes time, but in the end the trust in the rule of law is the most important one. Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)

QUESTIONS

Question to Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ-BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Ms Franziska HOOP (Liechtenstein) – The Council of



Europe remains the most important organisation in Europe working to promote and protect

human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Principles that we must uphold today more than ever. The European Court of Human Rights plays a special



Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ-BURIĆ - As you rightly mentioned, the Russian Federation ceased to be a high contracting party to the European Convention on Human Rights on 16 September. However, all the court cases taken before that and all the future possible cases that may be directed against the Russian

Federation of the matter that occurred before 16 September, can be adjudicated by the European Court. [...] Now, for the part of the implementation of the judgments, I think the number of cases pending from the Russian Federation is among the four biggest numbers that we have pending at the Court and it includes also the implementation. Under international law, the Russian Federation remains obliged to implement all the cases that have been adjudicated by the court and the Committee of Ministers' continued supervision of the judgments.

At its last meeting in December, the Committee of

role in ensuring that all member states protect human rights and political freedoms as set forth in the Convention.

The Russian Federation is rightly no longer a member of this organisation. However, this does not relieve them of their binding legal obligation to implement judgments of the Court on violations committed prior to their withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights. What have they done, what can they do, to protect the rights of Russian activists and opposition figures working for democracy, human rights and the rule of law? Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)

Ministers, in this format which we call human rights format, was discussing how to proceed with the cases because they strongly deplored – and I can only also say that I deplore it in the same way – that the Russian Federation decided earlier not to implement the Court judgments and furthermore, it decided not to participate in these meetings of the supervision of the judgments, nor to communicate with the Committee of Ministers. However, the Committee of Ministers will continue its work and, when it comes to how to communicate to the Russian Federation on the decisions taken by the Committee of Ministers, it has tasked me, to send each time, when it deliberates on and takes decisions, to inform the foreign minister of the Russian Federation of their obligation. And I have done for that meeting already, I sent the letter on 9 December and in the future, I will continue doing so.

There is one important thing which you can find in the report of the High-Level Reflection Group that was done as part of the reflection that may be discussed at the future Summit, and it concerns the implementation of judgments. And in particular, the implementation of judgments directed to the Russian Federation. So, as the Russian Federation remains obliged under international law to implement it, it can be probably discussed and seen how to have a more strategic way of doing so, [...] so that these cases can be also brought as a case of breach of international law before UN bodies. This is one of the ways where although we do not have direct access to the Russian Federation, we can still influence that the Russian Federation is pressed to abide by the decisions taken duly by the execution of the judgments of the Courts. [...] Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)

QUESTIONS

Question to Ms Katrín JAKOBSDÓTTIR, Prime Minister of Iceland, Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe



Ms Fiona O'LOUGHLIN (Ireland) – we are so happy to be on the road to Reykjavik, and thank you for your kind words in

relation to our report. We're looking forward to the journey, to the destination, and – as you say – what happens afterwards.

How can you ensure that the voice of PACE is central to the Summit and also the voices of the youth and civil society?

Because that is equally important.

Madam Prime Minister, if I can also ask you: Iceland has an excellent record in relation to female participation in public life, and that's not by accident, maybe you can share with us your approach to childcare and parental leave that helps support that. Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



Ms Katrín JAKOBSDÓTTIR – Thank you for your important work on the Assembly's report on the Summit.

I think actually when it comes to youth, I think it's very important that we include youth perspectives, both in the preparation, but also to think to the future. How can we actually

have more youth perspectives in the operation of both the Parliamentary Assembly, but also the Committee of Ministers?

I think we need to... We have already made a very broad call for contributions from civil society, national human rights institutions, academia, and youth, and staff, and other groups. So I think it's highly important to do that.

Just a very short note on female participation: in my opinion, structural change is essential if we want gender equality.

Therefore, it is actually my experience that what we have done in Iceland, which we did do because of very strong activism and solidarity of women's movements that actually joined forces. I think it's very important to remember that this initiative came from the grass roots and not the politicians on the top.

We have implemented the shared parental leave, where you use it or lose it. That applies for both parents. And also, universal childcare. These structural changes were made in the 1990s and in the early 21st century. They have made all the difference for female participation.

My advice to anyone who wants to increase female participation: make the structural changes so all women can participate, not just those few on the top that can be role models. That is not real gender equality. Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



GROUP
SPEAKERS

DEBATES

RESULTS

Monday 23 January 2023

Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee AS/Bur ([Doc. 15685](#), [Doc. 15685 Add. 1](#), [Doc. 15685 Add. 2](#), [Doc. 15685 Add. 3](#))



Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania) - it soon will be an entire year since war is raging in Europe, the assaulted country being a member of our Assembly. The war in Ukraine keeps making victims. It is still destroying not only the Ukrainian infrastructure and the lives of people but also decades of peaceful development in Europe. [...] Let me just underline the key areas where all the things Council of Europe could do more in order to be relevant. The international tribunal, the new generation of human rights, above all, the right to a healthy environment and a very important proposal of a commissioner for democracy. [...] I would like to draw attention of our Assembly to the growing number of political prisoners in Belarus and Russia. Maria Kalesnikava and Ales Bialiastki, Alexei Navalny and Vladimir Kara-Murza and many – too many – prisoners of conscience, fighters for freedom and democracy. [...] A general rapporteur for political prisoners could be a useful tool to keep this situation high on our Agenda. On behalf of the ALDE group, I invite colleagues to support this proposal in the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights. [More](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

Addressing the issue of Daesh foreign fighters and their families returning from Syria and other countries to the member States of the Council of Europe ([Doc. 15591](#))



Mr Rik DAEMS (Belgium) – Our group has had a profound discussion regarding the prosecution of Daesh foreign fighters from Syria. Our group supported the establishment of a special international tribunal or hybrid tribunal with jurisdiction over international crimes committed by Daesh foreign fighters. [...] The report points out that in some countries the public prosecutor insists on having a trial in the country of origin, this would ensure – so they say – that they are effectively prosecuted and that there is a real follow-up during and after their detention. Part of our group is of a different opinion; part of our group is of this opinion. So those who are of a different opinion feel that the report puts too much emphasis on the priority that should be given to the prosecution by the respective national courts of suspected Daesh fighters, amongst other things, a trial at home, in their opinion, poses serious problems regarding the gathering of proof of the heinous crimes they committed and, therefore, influences the charges and influences a far too low potential sentence. [...] Another element we wish to, as a group, put forward is the fact that regarding the implementation and rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for all returning Daesh foreign fighters and their families, we insist that the focus should, first and foremost, be on the interest of the child and not, as is currently is the case, the parents. [More](#), [voting results](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

Tuesday 24 January 2023

Conflict-related sexual violence ([Doc. 15677](#))



Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine) – Sadly turned out to be extremely relevant today, of course, because of the war in Ukraine. But it does not influence just Ukrainian women, it is a problem all over the world. [...] The ongoing aggression against Ukraine has been accompanied by a consistent pattern of sexual violence. This issue for me, as a woman and a mother, is extremely painful, but it is very important that we not be silent about it. The Russian military did not choose their victims. Statistics show that those who suffered were both female and male between the ages – just think about it – four and 80 years old. Soldiers raped children, their parents and the elderly, not just because they could, it became actually the instrument of war to discourage the resistance of people on the temporarily occupied territories. [More](#), [voting results](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

GROUP
SPEAKERS

DEBATES

RESULTS

The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges ([Doc. 15681](#), [Doc. 15681 Add.](#))



Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania) – The Summit is not the goal but is a means of doing better in this institution. There are three things that are very important for us here: address the issue of Ukraine and the necessity of an ad hoc international tribunal judging and punishing the crimes of aggression of Russia in Ukraine, addressing the very need of the countries where we can observe a degradation of democracy – this is why I strongly support and we strongly support the idea of creating a commissioner for democracy within the institution – and the third point – that is very important for us – is to really look into the idea of the new generation of human rights and the challenges that are brought by the... two challenges:

digitalisation and also the environment. [...] At the end of this intervention, I think it is fair to say that we have a mandate by voting on this report, in going home and spreading the word on the content of this report, but also asking our heads of states and governments to commit themselves, to have a confirmation to participating for the Summit in order to have a success that should be echoed very many years ahead from now. So let us work till the very end in preparing this Summit in order to have a fresh start in June. [More, voting results, video EN](#) | [OV](#)

Wednesday 25 January 2023

Environmental impact of armed conflicts ([Doc. 15674](#))



Ms Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA (Ukraine) – When we recognise the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right, the main rule of the Council of Europe is to be the guardian of human rights and the rule of law in times of peace and war. Environmental damage caused by military aggression and war can be multifaceted and mostly irreversible. They affect not only ecosystems but also human beings and human health beyond the conflict area and long after the conflict is over. Nature is always a silent witness and victim of this war, and it is always transboundary. Extensive bombing destroys ecosystems and biodiversity, throughout protected areas a lot of animals are dying, fires in Ukrainian

forests – all of this impacts us. Our health, our life. [...] So, we welcome introducing the notion of ecocide to a legal matter. When Russian missiles have been destroying the European environment, all together, in the Council of Europe, we must do what we are here for: care for human rights and justice, to recognise and clarify the site of the crime and establish clear and effective legal frameworks to protect the environment and harmful damages and persecute if it has happened, particularly during the armed conflicts and wars. [More, voting results, video EN](#) | [OV](#)

Contact tracing applications: ethical, cultural and educational challenges ([Doc. 15648](#))



Ms Mireille CLAPOT (France) – The examination of your draft resolution allows us to come back to the difficult question of the right balance to be found between the protection of personal data and the effectiveness of these new digital tools for fighting epidemics. While there is doubt in many minds on the issues of security and integrity, let us recall the existence of international data protection standards such as Convention 108+, adopted by our Assembly in 2018, or the European Regulation for data protection within the European Union. These have been able to provide a functional legal framework allowing the development of these applications while guaranteeing their users respect for

their privacy and individual freedoms. [...] We must therefore scientifically evaluate these applications with internationally recognised indicators in order to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of each contact tracing system. These evaluations will provide data and expertise that are still missing for an informed public and parliamentary debate on this subject. [More, voting results, video EN](#) | [OV](#)

GROUP
SPEAKERS

DEBATES

RESULTS

Current affairs debate: Recent tensions between Pristina and Belgrade



Ms Liliana TANGUY (France) – The ALDE Group, on behalf of which I am speaking today, would like to express its deep concern about the current situation in Kosovo and would also like to congratulate the two delegations from Serbia and Kosovo for their presence here today. [...] It is true that Belgrade and Pristina have resumed a dialogue since the beginning of the decade 2010. The Brussels Agreements concluded in 2013 were an important step towards the normalisation of relations between the two countries. However, we note with regret that their implementation has not produced the expected results. Little progress has been made in the last 10 years. Worse still, tensions between the two countries have

risen sharply in recent months, and in recent weeks in particular tensions that take on a particular dimension in the context of the aggression perpetrated against Ukraine, tensions whose seriousness we have no right to underestimate. Without hastily raising the spectre of a new war, we cannot afford to ignore the risk. [...] Our group calls on these two countries to pursue it at all costs, under the aegis of the EU, to assume their responsibilities and to show political courage. [More](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

Joint debate: The Istanbul Convention: progress and challenges ([Doc. 15673](#)); The role and responsibility of men and boys in stopping gender-based violence against women and girls ([Doc. 15678](#)); Finding solutions for marital captivity ([Doc. 15679](#))



Ms Lesia VASYLENKO (Ukraine) – In 2017, instead of ratifying the Istanbul Convention, Russia actually legalised domestic violence. The result, in 2018, is that 60% of the women in Russia who were killed were killed at the hands of their partners, that is 14 000 killed women in total. Sad as it may be, these examples are a mere taster of the reality of societies that denied the importance of gender equality. Let us have no doubt: ratifying the Istanbul Convention really does make a difference, but ratifying alone is not enough. To prevent cases from this intervention seeping into daily life, norms of the Convention must become daily practice and shape the values our children, girls and boys both, taught in

school and brought up with at home. [More](#), [voting results 1, 2, 3](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

Thursday 26 January 2023

Debate under urgent procedure: Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine ([Doc. 15689](#))



Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS (Estonia) – The Russian-escalated war of aggression against Ukraine has lasted for almost a year and it feels like a long time, but it's not. For anyone between Russia and Germany this is unfortunately a regular occurrence. Because there is a tradition of Russian imperial aggressive wars against its neighbours going back to at least 1918. It's at least a hundred years of Russian imperial wars. And those wars have two things in common: they have violated international law; the planners, initiators and perpetrators of these wars have never been tried nor sentenced. There was never a Nuremberg for Russian aggressive wars, and the victims of these aggressions never

saw justice. [...] It's alarming that the world in a hundred years has not been able to agree upon a court that would have universal jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. We need to set up a tribunal for Russian aggressors. We need to reform the ICC system and Rome Statute so that this kind of court would be there in the future. And we, in all particularly welcome the recommendation to immediately set up an ad hoc prosecutor's office for the special tribunal, even if the tribunal itself has not yet been formed.. [More](#), [voting results](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

GROUP
SPEAKERS

DEBATES

RESULTS

The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2022) ([Doc. 15682](#))



Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania) – I have only one reason for being reluctant in saying that I think this is the most important committee, and that is because we have to be appreciative for all the work being done in all the committees. But this committee is really important, because it is in camera and then you can have a real discussion and a sincere discussion without the pressure of going public. [...] One final remark: in a better version of this committee would be to have a sort of relation with the office of the Human Rights Commissioner, as we could ask opinions from the Venice Commission in order to issue statements on the legislative pieces initiated in the national parliaments or by governments. I think it would be

excellent. Respecting the independence of the Human Rights Commissioner office also to have a type of relationship, institutional relationship, between this committee and the Human Rights Commissioner office in order to ask for pertinent opinions when there is an obvious suspicion of human rights breaches. [More](#), [voting results](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Republic of Moldova ([Doc. 15680](#))



Ms Diana STOICA (Romania) - The illegal Russian invasion and war waged against Ukraine is having a serious effect on the neighbouring Republic of Moldova. In a real spirit of solidarity and upholding European values, Moldova is actively supporting those fleeing Ukraine hosting an important number of refugees per capita. This represents a major logistical challenge for the Moldovan government and our support from the EU and from the member States is necessary. The war also destabilised the energy market and with it Moldova's energy security. That combined with record inflation and the draft made the situation even more difficult for Moldova. Despite these challenges, the Moldovan government is strongly

committed to delivering on its clear reform goals, notably as regards to its judiciary reform, public administration reform and the modernisation of the economy to benefit the people of Moldova. [More](#), [voting results](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

Current affairs debate: Addressing the humanitarian consequences of the blockade of the Lachin corridor



Mr Bertrand BOUYX (France) – This topical debate is essential. Indeed, the Lachin corridor is a lifeline for the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. This route linking the territory to Armenia allows access and supplies to Nagorno-Karabakh. In accordance with the trilateral declaration of 9 November 2020, the Republic of Azerbaijan is committed to ensuring the safe movement of people, vehicles and goods along the Lachin corridor in both directions. Following a French initiative, the European Political Community, which met for the first time in Prague last 6 October in the presence of the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Azerbaijan, has made progress, in particular, the deployment of a European

Union observation mission. The Council of Europe, built on the foundation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, must be able to participate in these observation missions. Indeed, I believe that it is absolutely necessary for us to see for ourselves the state of affairs on the ground. [More](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

Friday 27 January 2023

Emergence of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) and their necessary apprehension through European human rights law ([Doc. 15683](#))



Mr André GATTOLIN (France) – The moral question is then obvious. While Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights affirms the right to life, can we accept, and if so to what extent, that a weapon system can give death without human intervention in this critical phase? Can safeguards be provided by maintaining appropriate human control and accountability? Referring to the approach proposed by some European states in the ongoing discussions on the subject, the resolution before us proposes a two-pronged approach. It seems to me to be balanced. On the one hand, we would affirm that fully autonomous lethal weapons systems, without any meaningful human control, could never be in conformity with

international humanitarian law and human rights. They would, therefore, be banned outright. On the other hand, we would call for the development of a legal framework for other partially autonomous lethal weapons systems, with rules tailored to the particular challenges posed by these weapons, to ensure compliance with the laws of war. [More](#), [voting results](#), [video](#) [EN](#) | [OV](#)

Building the Open Council of Europe Academic Networks (OCEAN) ([Doc. 15675](#))



Ms Sona GHAZARYAN (Armenia) – We, as a group agree that universities should be human rights and democracy incubators, and education plays itself a crucial role in safeguarding rule of law. The role of academia should also be noted with its strong potential to promote core principles on the European Convention of Human Rights. Hence a strong cooperation between the Council of Europe and academia can help to overcome the challenges we face nowadays. In practice, it can assist the governments of member states along with the legislative bodies in better implementation of conventions. [...] So what we can do as parliamentarians? I think, first of all, we need to raise awareness among the universities and youth about this

initiatives, and, as a parliamentarian, while going back home I will initiate hearings to encourage the creation of a national academic network under the umbrella of OCEAN. [More](#), [voting results](#), [video](#) [EN](#) | [OV](#)