

PACE Session  
20-24 April  
2026

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## April 2026 part-session highlights:

- **Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine:** During the April session, ALDE-PACE called on governments and parliaments to step up their efforts towards establishing a Special Tribunal to investigate, prosecute, and try senior political and military leaders who bear the greatest responsibility for the war of aggression against Ukraine. There is no time to lose—justice delayed is justice denied. [Learn more about our actions.](#)
- **Putin's Russia must not be allowed back at international art events:** On 22 April, ALDE-PACE tabled a [written declaration](#) condemning the decision by the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia to allow Russia to reopen its national pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition. Our position is clear: cultural diplomacy must uphold peace and democratic values. For this reason, we also initiated a [motion for a resolution](#) on the subject. We thank Yevheniia Kravchuk, rapporteur on "Countering the erasure of cultural identity in times of war and peace", for having raised concerns about the Fondazione's decision since early March. We also thank Nadya Tolokonnikova, Russian conceptual artist and political activist, for bringing more attention to this issue. On 30 April, due to unprecedented international pressure, the Jury of the exhibition announced its resignation.
- We held a passionate discussion on recent **election campaigns conducted by liberal parties in Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania.** Despite differences between these countries, they often face similar democratic risks. [Learn more about this event.](#)
- ALDE-PACE **exchanged views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset.** Our regular meetings provide members with valuable insights into the Council of Europe's policy orientations and challenges. We thank Mr Berset for having agreed to answer our questions.
- We met with **Francesca Albanese, UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur** on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories, in the framework of the ongoing report "ICC under threat". Ms Albanese informed us about the personal sanctions imposed by the US administration on ICC officials and individuals assisting ICC investigations.
- Türkiye is a member of the Council of Europe since 1950. The country is an important actor in ensuring security and stability in Europe and has played a great role in supporting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. While acknowledging this contribution, in 2025 PACE has expressed deep concern over the deterioration of democracy and political freedoms in the country, notably following the arrest of the Mayor of Istanbul Ekrem İmamoğlu. The lack of implementation of the ECHR judgements and the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention are also among key concerns. During our April meeting, we met with **Dursun Müsavat Dervişoğlu**, leader of the İYİ Party, to discuss the party's vision for a democratic and pluralist Türkiye.
- **Building a democratic perspective for Belarus and Russia:** this is the purpose of PACE's working formats engaging with the democratic forces of the two countries. We thank Pavel Tereshkovich from the team of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya for having worked with us during the past year on behalf of the Belarusian democrats. This session, ALDE-PACE also established working contacts with four members of the Platform for Dialogue between the Assembly and Russian democratic forces in exile: laureate of the PACE Vaclav Havel Prize Vladimir Kara-Murza, 13<sup>th</sup> world chess champion and one of the leaders of the Russian anti-war committee Garry Kasparov, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and founder of *Memorial* Oleg Orlov and founding member of *Pussy Riot* Nadya Tolokonnikova.

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. We also thank the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) for excellent cooperation.

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

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HEARINGS

## A call to step up efforts for the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine



The April session was an important momentum for ALDE-PACE to renew our call on governments and parliaments to step up efforts towards the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

During this session, we initiated a plenary debate calling for action. We asked the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Alain Berset to report on the necessary steps to make the Tribunal operational. On 22 April, we discussed legal details and common efforts with MEP Petras Auštrevičius (Lithuania, Renew Europe), Jörg Polakiewicz (Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law of the Council of Europe), and Eerik Kross (Chair of the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights).

What seemed impossible four years ago is taking shape day by day. This is how impunity is combatted in real time. Let us not lose this momentum. We welcome the strong backing of the establishment and rapid bringing into operation of the Tribunal expressed in the European Parliament resolution of 30 April. Governments and parliaments must act now! We urge governments to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement and we urge parliaments to ratify it without delay. We call on the Dutch authorities to finalise the offer to host the Tribunal.

### Liberal electoral campaign in a polarized political setting



At the Council of Europe, we rarely focus on political campaigning or electoral strategy. Yet today's increasingly polarised environment—shaped by the use of social networks, growing violence against political figures, and external interference—makes such discussions both timely and necessary.

Safeguarding democratic values requires not only strong institutions, but also thoughtful, resilient approaches to political engagement. In this context, we hosted a dynamic discussion on recent election campaigns led by liberal parties in Hungary, Slovakia, and

Romania – different countries, often facing similar democratic risks. We explored the practical and strategic dimensions of campaigning. Participants shared insights on grassroots efforts such as door-to-door outreach, as well as the opportunities and risks associated with digital platforms. We also addressed critical strategic decisions—from selecting lead candidates to navigating the difficult question of whether, in certain circumstances, stepping back from an election might better serve the broader goal of regime change.

We thank Dávid Bedő (Momentum), Martin Burggr (Progressive Slovakia), and Cristian Seidler (USR) for having joined us in Strasbourg for this important discussion. By sharing experiences and good practices across borders, we strengthen our collective capacity to respond to evolving challenges and ensure that democratic voices continue to be heard.

### Did you know?

#### ALDE-PACE is also playing an active role in PACE sub-committees

In addition to seven leading positions in PACE committees, ALDE-PACE members have been elected to lead six sub-committees. Sub-committees focus on specific subjects and play an active role in steering committee work.

Stay updated and follow our committee work [@ALDExPACE](https://twitter.com/ALDExPACE)



PACE SUB-COMMITTEES

## ALDE team on the sub-committees



Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings: Chairperson **Larysa BILOZIR**

External Relations: Vice-Chairperson **Bertrand BOUYX**

Youth and the Society of the Future: Chairperson **Sona GHAZARYAN**

Media and Information Society: Vice-Chairperson **Valentina GRIPPO**

Culture, Education and Democratic Values: Chairperson **Andries GRYFFROY**

Media and Information Society: Chairperson **Yevheniia KRAVCHUK**

International Protection, Integration and Support to Vulnerable Persons: Vice-Chairperson **Manuela PERTEGHELLA**

*Find out about our General Rapporteurs in the next newsletter!*



ALDE REPORTS



### Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine)

- **Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy**, Rapporteur for opinion AS/Ega ([Doc. 16382](#))



### Lesia VASYLENKO (Ukraine)

- **Tracking the proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky and holding its perpetrators accountable**, AS/Jur ([Doc. 16362](#))



## QUESTIONS

### Question to Mr Jean-Noël BARROT, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France



Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania) - Minister, thank you for your inspiring speech.

For several years now, illiberal forces have been gaining strength in Europe and around the world.

Today, in addition to eroding the foundations of our democracies, this “illiberal international”, which is also present in this Assembly, brings instability to the world stage.

From the outset, France has been at the forefront of the resistance to this trend.

Minister, what can we do today to defend our values in the face of illiberalism? Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



Mr Jean-Noël BARROT - Thank you for your question.

The best way to defend fundamental rights and freedoms in Europe is to support the work of this Council and the Court. But as the pressure from authoritarian or illiberal regimes increases, it is also vital for Europe to strengthen itself, to become more independent, to free itself from all its servitudes, all its dependencies, so that it can be fully free to make its own choices.

And Europe must also be uncompromising about respecting, in all circumstances, the integrity of its electoral processes and the quality of its public debate, and therefore reject with great vigour and firmness any form of interference or meddling, of course. But also any form of corruption, like the ones we are witnessing, having allowed our public space to be relocated to social networking platforms whose rules are set by American and Chinese billionaires who have no use for democracy or the rule of law..

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

## QUESTIONS

### Question to Mr Alain BERSET, Secretary General of the Council of Europe



Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine) – With regards to the Special Tribunal, my question is when do you think we can move from the phase zero advanced team to

the phase one skeleton tribunal?

What concrete steps will be taken after the Chişinău meeting, after the Committee of Ministers sits and takes that decision on the enlarged partial agreement?

What role can the Council of Europe play in enlarging this number that you mentioned, from 20 countries to more?

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



Mr Alain BERSET – I think once again accountability is essential because we know that without accountability there can be no credible, not just and no lasting peace.

This Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe have already been working for a long time already on accountability.

We should never forget the Court, European Court of Human Rights, is addressing everyday violations of human rights in the context of the war in Ukraine, including – we have also this Inter-State case published last July. I mean, it shows that the first pillar of accountability is fully working.

We have the second with the Register of Damage for Ukraine. And last December, the creation of the International Claims Commission for Ukraine. It is also working well.

You are addressing the third pillar, the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. I think we have now a good situation. We have 19 states, member states willing to join with clear statements. Some of them are saying: 'We are joining without asking about the budget and the finance'. Others tell us: 'We want to join, but we will make the decisive step once we have a precise idea about the budget' – that makes a difference.

But now the next conference in Chişinău will be key, because it is the first moment we will be addressing this and to have really this step made. And then we are able to envisage the next steps.

In parallel we are working with an advanced team, I mean, on the so-called Skeleton Tribunal, to prepare all the elements. We have all this funding from the European Union. We are really thankful for the

European Union for funding this work. We also have a commitment from the Netherlands for the first step for this Skeleton Tribunal, but we need now to have a clear budget for the next steps as soon as possible. [...]

Why am I not able to tell you a date where it is possible to open? Because it is not depending on us. We are ready. We are not slowing down the rhythm. The opposite is true. But we really need now a commitment from the states with the budget, with the resources, with finance to make those steps happen. [...]

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

## QUESTIONS

### Question to Mr Mihai POPȘOI, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, President of the Committee of Ministers



Mr Bertrand BOUYX (France) – Minister, the world is turning upside down. Wars, wars of invasion, wars of grabbing, no matter the type, the retreat of international law and the implosion of what, until recently,

we called the international community.

In this context, your country is geographically and humanly situated on one of the fault lines. In this context, Minister, President Maia SANDU recently said she was in favour of reunification with Romania, a member of the European Union. This, I presume, is a way of affirming her clear and definitive choice for full reintegration into the European family.

Has this stance had any impact on the debate within your own country?

I would also like to thank you for putting Ukraine at the heart of the Moldovan Presidency. Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



Mr Mihail POPȘOI – As I've mentioned during my previous intervention here, and as President Maia SANDU mentioned when Her Excellency was here, the movement for unification with

Romania is part and parcel of Moldovan political discourse and has been so since Moldova's independence. For over 30 years now, it has been a constant feature in Moldovan political debates and in Moldovan elections. But at the same time, it is not an imminent issue on the political agenda of today.

At the same time, we need to be aware of the historical, linguistic and cultural commonalities between the Republic of Moldova and Romania. About a million Moldovan citizens are also citizens of Romania. And in light of the very severe geopolitical circumstances in which we find ourselves, we need to be reminded of our common past.

But again, as I said and as it was explained repeatedly back home, this is not necessarily an item on the immediate political agenda of political decisions in Chișinău today. Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)

## QUESTIONS

### Question to Mr Denis BEĆIROVIĆ, Chairperson of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Ms Liliana TANGUY (France) - Mister President, as we approach the next elections in Bosnia and

Herzegovina scheduled for October 2026, how do you view the challenges that remain, particularly in terms of the transparency and integrity of the electoral process and its alignment with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights?

The EU recently reduced a significant



Mr Denis BEĆIROVIĆ – Future elections, coming up in October this year, are very important elections for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I believe that citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina will give even more of their trust to the pro-European democratic forces in Bosnia

and Herzegovina.

According to all the public polls that we had in Bosnia and Herzegovina, between 70% and 80% of our population wishes for the speedy, full membership of our country in the European Union.

It is up to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries in the region to handle the challenges that we are facing.

So, for that sake, it is very important that the whole electoral process is transparent, that we utilise new electoral technologies, guaranteeing that the elections

part of the Growth Plan funds earmarked for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

What guarantees can you give that the remaining measures will be implemented to avoid the country losing further EU support? Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)

in Bosnia and Herzegovina are transparent, fair and democratic.

In the last three years, we have accomplished very important results on our path of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, but if you ask me if I am satisfied with the dynamic of this process – and now let's focus on the EU – I would say no, because this dynamic needs to be faster in the time ahead of us.

This is very important for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but why isn't it already faster? Because of certain destructive political forces acting in our country, which in 2025 specifically caused a major crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We had the open attacks against the constitutional order in our country. Only this year, we learned that leaders of the entity of the Republika Srpska engaged a lobbying consultancy in North America working on breaking down the Dayton Peace Agreement, and along with it the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is the first time it has happened since the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed, and this is very dangerous. Unfortunately, partially to an extent, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is tied to the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

The attacks against the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been strengthened since the onset of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)

#### Question to Mr Michael O'FLAHERTY, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights



Ms Lesia VASYLENKO (Ukraine) - Dear Commissioner, the fate of thousands of Ukrainians, such as Mr Oleh PLACHKOVYI, Mr Serhiy

TSYHIPA and Mr Oleh SHEVANDIN remains unknown. They are kept in Russian captivity in torture centres.

Similarly, the fate of opposition leader Ms Elene KHOSHTARIA, who is a Georgian opposition leader, also remains unknown as she is subject to degrading treatment in detention.

Both cases are examples of how illegal imprisonment is used to silence dissent. These cases are on the rise.

What measures have you taken to ensure the unconditional release of all those illegally detained?

What is your engagement, if any, with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in these matters? Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



Mr Michael O'FLAHERTY - First, I want to agree with you about the barbarity of these practises.

The conditions in which people are held, whether it be in the temporarily occupied territories or abducted to Russia, the Russian Federation itself, is

entirely unacceptable.

I condemn now, I have and I will continue to deplore the practises and to demand that these people are returned home in a quick, safe and dignified manner. So you have my assurance there.

That said, I have no magic solution in terms of gaining their release. Like the rest of the world, I invest in the condemnation and in the drawing into the public domain of the details of what's happening to them and the need to keep them on top of the priorities.

You didn't mention the issue of children. But that's another dimension, of course, of the outrage. And we have to keep them as well, at the top of the policy agenda, because we will only ever figure out together a way to fix this if it is at the top of our leader's preoccupation.

The second dimension is, of course, no less important, which is that I join in full and unhesitating support for all of our accountability work. We must hold the perpetrators accountable.

I fully support the prosecution of the crime of aggression. When the right moments come in the right context, I will deliver that support in meaningful and tangible ways [...] Video [EN](#) | [OV](#)



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Monday 20 April 2026

**Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee ([Doc. 16377](#)); Observation of the early elections to the Assembly of Kosovo\*2 (28 December 2025) ([Doc. 16380](#))**



Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS (Estonia) – Probably the most important issue this body is working on is the International Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. The Council of Europe signed the treaty with Ukraine last June. There were 33 countries who were in the core group drafting it. By now, only 19 countries have joined [...] The second most important issue where we have not made any progress at all, I think, is the deported Ukrainian children. [...] Third, we have now the platform of the Russian democratic forces working with us. Let's learn to know them and create some trust, because there is not much trust left, as we know, between Europe and Russia right now. And last, the Hungarian elections were well-run during the day [...] What concerned us and should concern this body was the behaviour of the Organization for Security and Co-

operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly. Not that they did anything wrong, but they let a Russian representative be part of the core group and that discredited the institution in the eyes of most of the Hungarian opposition, media, NGOs. [More](#), [video EN](#) | [OV](#)

**Tuesday 21 April 2026**

**Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy ([Doc. 16363](#))**



Ms Lucia PLAVÁKOVÁ (Slovak Republic) – I would like to speak about my experience, but this is not only about me. What I have gone through is shared by many other politicians, especially women and queer politicians. [...] I was expelled from a parliamentary session while presenting a legislative proposal simply because I had the rainbow sticker on my notebook. During a press conference, another member of the Parliament called me a bitch and said he did not consider me to be a woman. After that, I have received thousands of hate messages and death threats, not only to myself, but also to my daughter. She was six years old at that time. I had to be placed under state security protection because of the disinformation campaign about 72 sexists used as a political tool against my party. I am misgendered and questioned about my identity on a daily basis. Because

my daughter has two mothers, I am attacked as a parent, with people asking where I got her or accusing me of destroying her life. And I receive sexually explicit messages every day, not only online, but also as letters to my home address. These attacks and this constant harassment have serious consequences. They affect mental health, family life, well-being. They can also have a chilling effect, paralysing politicians at work, making them question whether they shall run again, whether they shall ask for re-election. [More](#), [voting results](#), [Video EN](#) | [OV](#)

**Countering discrimination based on religion and protecting freedom of religion or belief in Europe ([Doc. 16373](#))**

Mr Dominik OBERHOFER (Austria) – Today I would like to speak plainly. Everyone has the right



to believe or not to believe. This right stands above political ideologies, above majorities and, above all, above moods. But let's stop fooling ourselves. Religious freedom is not a carte blanche. Those who live in Europe, those who practise their faith here, stand on the ground of our common values: democracy, the rule of law, equality, human rights. I therefore say quite clearly: no religion is above the constitution, no tradition justifies restrictions on freedom. Cultural practices must not relativise fundamental rights. This is not a provocation, it is a foundation of Europe. And this is precisely where our future will be decided. Not in abstract discussions, but in schools, in the classrooms of our children. Where young people develop, where they learn who they are, where they realise what unites them. That is why Europe today needs the courage and a clear statement

in favour of compulsory ethics lessons for all pupils. A space in which people are not divided, but brought together. A space in which young people learn that freedom also means responsibility... [More, voting results, Video EN | OV](#)

### Procedure for the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights ([Doc. 16361](#))



Ms Elena-Simona SPĂTARU (Romania) – These days, it has become even more important that human rights values be heard throughout the world and protected by judges and those who possess the highest level of competence, independence and impartiality. [...] Let us remember that the current procedure for electing judges to the European Court of Human Rights was developed through a series of resolutions and recommendations of this assembly, adopted over the last 30 years. The time has come to adapt to realities that force us to be even stricter. Stricter both with regard to the national election process and with regard to the competencies of future candidates. In both respects, this report is clear and proposes that the Assembly support forward [...] There are several important proposals with which the ALDE group agrees and declares its full

collaboration so that the procedure for electing judges to the Court reflects the values of this Assembly. [More, voting results, Video EN | OV](#)

**Wednesday 22 April 2026**

### Joint debate: Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt ([Doc. 16372](#)); Paving the way for a culture of consent ([Doc. 16370](#))



Ms Carla MOONEN (Netherlands) – One of the most alarming findings is what the report calls an "impunity crisis". Only one in 200 rapes in the European Union leads to a conviction. Can you imagine that only one in 200 rapes leads to a conviction? That means that 99% of victims do not get the justice they deserve. This is not a marginal failure. This is a systemic failure. Across all countries, there is a lack of expertise and training. Furthermore, we see a rise in technology-facilitated violence against women, the misuse of artificial intelligence [...], we see a rise of patriarchal views about women [...]; I would like to mention marriages without consent. There is clear evidence that we need the Istanbul Convention. That's where we come in. As parliamentarians, we have a responsibility to safeguard what has been achieved and to push further. We have to

defend the Convention in public debate, countering disinformation, ensuring proper funding and holding our governments to account. Because the real test is not only what we agree on here: but what we deliver back home. [More, voting results 1, 2, Video EN | OV](#)

### Towards the universal abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances ([Doc. 16375 rev](#))



Ms Sabina ĆUDIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) – Membership in this organisation is both a privilege and responsibility. That privilege comes with certain responsibilities of not just member states, but the states that have the observer status here in the Council of Europe. Here in 2026, I repeat, we are discussing the death penalty, among other places, in a state that has observer status here in the Council of Europe. And not just any kind of death penalty. Not just any kind of death penalty, because this death penalty is mandatory. Mandatory execution by hanging within 90 days from the sentence, that allows for no questioning of the death sentence in the military court. The most important distinction of this death penalty is the following: this death penalty excludes Israeli citizens. So imagine in the countries that also have observer status

here, with controversial death penalties that do not apply to the entirety of their territories, because many states within the United States abolished the death penalty. Can you imagine a death penalty that exclusively applies to Black people, that exclusively applies to Muslims or minorities in Japan or the United States? [More, voting results, Video EN | OV](#)

## Tracking the proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky and holding its perpetrators accountable ([Doc. 16362](#))



Ms Rian VOGELS (Netherlands) – At the outset, I would like to thank the rapporteur for perseverance and courage in presenting this report, which originated in the Magnitsky files, and for steering such a complex and sensitive resolution to this stage. [...] This report addresses a matter of fundamental importance, the credibility of our legal systems when confronted with large scale corruption, transnational money laundering and grave human rights violations. It does so in a careful, factual and balanced manner, fully consistent with the standards and values of the Council of Europe. We have heard concerns about judicial independence and about the risk of interfering with ongoing legal proceedings. These concerns deserve respect. However, they must not be used as an argument for political

inaction or silence. [...] This Assembly is not a judicial body. We do not adjudicate cases, nor do we instruct courts. Our role is different, but no less essential, to identify structural weaknesses, to raise standards and to ensure that our legal frameworks are fit to respond to modern forms of corruption. [...] [More](#), [voting results](#), [Video EN](#) | [OV](#)

**Thursday 23 April 2026**

### **Current affairs debate: Accountability and justice: a call to step up efforts for the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine**



Ms Lesia VASYLENKO (Ukraine) – Since Nuremberg, aggression has been called the 'mother of all crimes'. History has taught us that appeasing the aggressor doesn't help. It only leads to more wars, more killings, more destruction. Ukraine is not an exception. Russia's aggression began in 2014. It escalated in 2022. For more than 12 years, Ukrainians have been living the horrors of war. More than 15 000 civilians killed, over 40 000 injured, mass destruction, deportations, torture. I can go on, but this is what happens when accountability fails and impunity prevails. Dear colleagues, this Parliamentary Assembly was the first to call for a special tribunal on aggression back in 2022. The idea is very simple: to confirm *de jure* what we all know *de facto*. Russia has committed an act of aggression against Ukraine, and Ukraine is the victim. Such a decision by an international judicial institution will remove all

ambiguity that blocks accountability today... [More](#), [Video EN](#) | [OV](#)

### **Current affairs debate: The need for the respect of international law, peace and stability in the broader Middle East**



Mr Bertrand BOUYX (France) – We are used to saying that the Middle East is complicated, which is a rather easy, rather lazy way of putting it, to excuse the fact that international law is not applied there at all or not at all, that the principles and rights that benefit European citizens are not fully applicable because, you see, the Middle East is complicated. It's not the same [...] The Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe therefore wishes to reaffirm some simple principles. The first principle is that all peoples have the right to take full control of their own destiny. Individual destinies and collective destinies, the Iranian people as much as any others, the demonstrators for a free and democratic Iran have our full support. [...] The second principle is that no people has ever been liberated by bombing from foreign powers whose

war aims. [...] The third principle is that territorial expansion, whether it is called colonisation or a security zone, has never produced peace... [More](#), [Video EN](#) | [OV](#)

**Debate under urgent procedure Draft additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism ([Doc. 16385](#))**

Ms Larysa BILOZIR (Ukraine) – The core idea of this report is to expand tools for confiscating assets where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion without a criminal conviction and introduce simplified cross-border asset tracing mechanisms. This is essential. [...] At the same time, there is a serious institutional concern in the report. As to the Rapporteur's opinion, the Parliamentary Assembly is partially excluded from the influence of the context of new conventions of the Council of Europe [...] Today we are also witnessing strong resistance to the confiscation of Russian assets. It increasingly appears that key decisions are shaped not by public authorities, not by other institutions, but by financial institutions, banks and depositories, which hide behind the law of the protection of private property rights. But the law is not only about

limitation, it must also enable justice. It should not be used to shield the assets of the aggressive state or criminal networks. [...] [More](#), [voting results](#), [Video](#) [EN](#) | [OV](#)

**European guidelines to counter social dumping and labour exploitation ([Doc. 16371](#))**

Lord Michael GERMAN (United Kingdom) – We're talking about rights here, not regulations. I welcome the exposure of a problem facing many migrant workers, particularly seasonal and part-time workers. These are our forgotten workforce, a group filling gaps in the labour market where national labour shortages exist. By their very nature, these are short-term workers. Workers who have the greatest possibility of being exploited and being exposed to poor working conditions, poor wages and poor treatment [...] Of course, as our populations age, we need to find workers to undertake the tasks we need to maintain and improve the standards of life for our people. This all points to appropriate safeguards, guardrails to be put in place to protect these workers. This goes to the heart of this report and its recommendations. Human rights are for everyone. [More](#),

[voting results](#), [Video](#) [EN](#) | [OV](#)

**Copyright enforcement in the artificial intelligence environment ([Doc. 16374](#))**

Ms Valentina GRIPPO (Italy) – In a few months' time, as everyone can see by now, this will happen: a girl will type a sentence on a screen and receive a novel written especially for her, in the style she prefers. A boy will ask for a film and the film will be there, with the actors he loves, only that story will never have been filmed, those actors will never have acted. A song, an essay, a comic book, a painting: all at the touch of a prompt, personalised, virtual. It's not science fiction, it's already happening, it's next season. The point is not whether we like it, the point is that that song, that novel, that film will not be born from nowhere, invented by artificial intelligence: it will be born from millions of real books, written by real writers, ingested without permission. [...] How can this inexorable process be countered? Three things are needed: transparency on training data, because

without knowing what was used no one can defend themselves; presumption of infringement when that transparency is lacking, because those who do not show their cards cannot invoke good faith; and fair remuneration through collective licensing and binding arbitration when the tech giants refuse to follow the rules. [...] [More](#), [voting results](#), [Video](#) [EN](#) | [OV](#)

Friday 24 April 2026

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RESULTS

### Free debate



Mr Damien COTTIER (Switzerland) – We are living in a period of multiple crises: geopolitical crises, economic and financial crises, of course security crises and a climate crisis. And this is obviously a time for concern, but like all crises, it can also be a time for opportunity. I am convinced, and so is my group, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, that in this period our liberal democracies can assert themselves, but to do so they must work together. And they must work on three fundamental principles. Firstly, we must strengthen our economies within our countries, and make it easier for people – young people in particular – to integrate themselves into society and into the workplace. [...] The second thing we must do is strengthen our security, the internal security of our countries [...] We owe it to our citizens, and this obviously involves co-operation efforts as well as rearmament efforts. And the third thing that we must do, that our liberal democracies must do together, is to strengthen their co-operation. And here, the multilateral framework, in particular that of the Council of Europe, but more generally the multilateral organisations that are under pressure, must be strengthened and they must be more effective. [More](#), [Video](#) [EN](#) | [OV](#)

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