ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE
I PACE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

NEWS

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PACE Session
28 September –
2 October 2026

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Autumn 2026 part-session highlights & more:

- **War in Ukraine, accountability and justice:** throughout the session week, ALDE-PACE called for the swift establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. We raised the issue with the leader of D66, Alexandra van Huffelen, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset, and put a question to the President of the Committee of Ministers, Isabelle Berro-Amadeï. We exchanged views with Mykyta Poturaev, Chair of the Ukrainian delegation to the OSCE PA. We heard testimonies from liberated Ukrainian civilian captives and prisoners of war about the torture and inhuman treatment they endured in detention. We also met the European Youth Parliament's "Rebuild Ukraine" Ambassadors, who presented their ideas for Ukraine's recovery after the war.
- **Democratic backsliding alert:** we discussed the situation in Slovenia with the former Prime Minister and leader of Gibanje Svoboda, Robert Golob, who warned of the deteriorating state of the rule of law and democracy in his country.
- **Freedom for democracy defenders:** we had the chance to welcome Maria Kalesnikava, Belarusian activist and former political prisoner, and Masih Alinejad, Iranian-American journalist, author and women's rights activist – two powerful figures who travelled to Strasbourg for the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize ceremony held at PACE on 28 September. Later in the week, we reiterated our calls for the release of imprisoned democratic leaders and activists, including Elene Khoshtaria, Anar Mammadli and Osman Kavala.
- **Congratulations:** we congratulate Carla Moonen on her election as Vice-President of the Children Network. We are confident that Carla will put all her energy into the fight for the return and reintegration of Ukrainian children deported to Russia.
- **A touching moment:** we said goodbye to our long-standing colleague Claude Kern, who had been a member of the Assembly since 2017. He was Vice-President of both the Political Affairs Committee and the Monitoring Committee, rapporteur on Georgia, and a Bureau member of the Parliamentary Alliance for Free and Fair Elections.
- **New rapporteurs:** we wish successful work to the nine new ALDE-PACE rapporteurs appointed in the POL, JUR, SOC, MIG, CULT and EGA committees: Eerik-Niiles Kross, Damien Cottier, Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Michael German, Yevheniia Kravchuk, Iulian Bulai, Nikolla Camaj, Dominik Oberhofer and Lucia Plaváková. Their work will range from supporting Russia's democratic civil society in exile and exposing repression under Russian occupation to empowering young people online, examining the situation in Ceuta and setting standards for Russia's participation in international cultural events.

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

Holding the line: liberals push for accountability and warn against democratic backsliding

On 28 September, we met Mykyta Poturaev, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and chair of the Ukrainian delegation to the OSCE PA. We discussed PACE's experience in building an institutional presence for the democratic opposition forces of Russia and Belarus. We also talked about election observation in the new international context and the need for our two organisations to strengthen their cooperation. And, of course, we spoke about Ukraine, about European support, and about the political forces in Europe that are enabling the aggressor.

We continued to call on our counterparts across Europe to redouble their efforts to make the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine operational. On 30 September, we discussed the situation with Alexandra van Huffelen, party chair of D66. Opening the exchange of views, ALDE-PACE Vice-President Yevheniia Kravchuk, who chaired the meeting, recalled that 38 countries and the EU have notified their intention to join the resolution establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal. Ten countries have already announced that they will join the EPA without conditions, while 28 need to complete national ratification procedures. 16 ratifications are needed for the EPA to enter into force, and countries are asking for a budget estimate from the Dutch authorities before committing to contributions. The purpose of our exchange was to raise awareness of this situation among our liberal partners in the Netherlands.

Responding to the debate, Alexandra van Huffelen reassured the group: "To be very clear, D66 supports the Special Tribunal on the Crime of Aggression. And I'm getting very much your point, let's not wait until we have the last figure for the last something, but let's try to make sure that the Tribunal becomes operational as soon as possible."

Later that day, Robert Golob, former Prime Minister of Slovenia and leader of the Gibanje Svoboda party, joined our meeting to warn members of "a series of political events in recent months which are not just worrying, they are disturbing". He described what he characterised as a pattern of rapid changes by Slovenia's new government that put at risk the independence of the judiciary, the funding of NGOs, media freedom and the opposition's ability to exercise its constitutional rights, alongside Russia's growing influence in the region. The opposition, together with trade unions, has worked to mobilise public opinion and prevent backsliding, notably through legislative referendums on two laws: one dubbed the "political police" law, the other targeting Slovenia's welfare system. In the first referendum, held on 11 October, voters rejected amendments that could have turned parliamentary inquiries into a tool for pressuring people with opposing political views. While mobilising voters against the most dangerous changes is the path our liberal partners have chosen, we also discussed how the European institutions and the Council of Europe should respond to undemocratic developments in Slovenia.

Meeting with Masih Alinejad

Meeting with Maria Kalesnikava

ALDE REPORTS

Damien COTTIER (Switzerland)

- **Observation of the parliamentary elections in Armenia (7 June 2026)**, Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. 16486 rev)

Iulian BULAI (Romania)

- **Observation of the early elections to the Assembly of Kosovo* 2(7 June 2026)**, Rapporteur AS/Bur (Doc. 16480 rev)

Lord Michael German (United Kingdom)

- **Current affairs debate. Solidarity with Ceuta: a test case for Europe**, Opening speaker

Lesia ZABURANNA (Ukraine)

- **Towards coherent policies on veterans in Europe**, Rapporteur AS/Soc (Doc. 16473)

Valentina GRIPPO (Italy)

- **Growing threats to media pluralism and the independence of the media,** Rapporteur AS/Cult (Doc. 16468)

Larysa BILOZIR (Ukraine)

- **The role of the OECD in evaluating the impact of artificial intelligence on the future of work,** Rapporteur for opinion AS/Mig (Doc. 16489)

Rian VOGELS (Netherlands)

- **Restructuring and streamlining the Rules of Procedure: modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly**, Rapporteur AS/Rul (Doc. 16482)

QUESTIONS

Question to Mr Mattias GUYOMAR, President of the European Court of Human Rights

Ms Rian VOGELS (Netherlands)
The recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights to strike the remaining applications against Russia from its docket has caused concern among many victims and observers. Even when enforcement may be unlikely, a judgment can still provide recognition and uphold faith in European justice.
Do you believe any realistic

Mr Mattias GUYOMAR - I would like to begin – and this is my role as President of the European Court of Human Rights – by returning to a fundamental, basic principle. What has been decided is decided, and the Court will not go back on its ruling. […] The Court made a decision in 2022 that was by no means a foregone conclusion. It decided to retain its residual jurisdiction over Russian cases. There was a debate in plenary and we could very well have said, 'Let's stop here', because Russia is ceasing to be a member of the Council of Europe; the Russian judge's term of office will come to an end; and when he leaves, well, we'll simply clear the backlog of Russian cases. […] The Court has, however, taken the opposite decision. A historic decision. […] We have made this decision because we are well aware that administering justice is not merely a matter of granting relief to the applicants. As you said, it also means that, because justice will be done, Russia will be held to

alternatives existed, to preserve or defer these cases? And how would you reassure those who see this as a loss for the victims concerned? Video EN | OV

account. It is a way of holding Russia accountable for its human rights abuses. And so, it has symbolic, political and historical significance.

Furthermore, we hope that in the future – as was asked earlier – once Russia has re-joined the international community, the judgments finding it liable will also be enforced. […] The Lebedeva and Others v. Russia decision, in fact, is a decision to strike out the cases, concerning the 879 individual cases that do not relate directly or indirectly to an armed conflict directed against Russia. […] The Court explained why it acted as it did. It did not simply dismiss cases. […] There is this safeguard clause. The door is not closed forever. If new circumstances justify it, and a request is made to that effect, the Court will examine it and the competent bodies – that is to say, the judicial bodies – will take whatever action they deem appropriate.

We wanted this to be a genuine and practical possibility for applicants to apply to the Court to request the reopening of their cases. And, together with the Registry, we have decided to set up – as you can see on the Court's website – on the 'Applicants' page – a special link, which has been there for several days, enabling applicants whose cases were struck out by the Lebedeva and Others v. Russia decision, if they are unable to bring a case before us, contact us or access the Court through the normal channels, to make themselves known via this special link. In other words, to say: 'I want my application to be reconsidered.' And the Court will, of course, acknowledge receipt. This request will then be dealt with in accordance with standard procedures. […] What I really want you to understand, with the utmost sincerity – not just my own, but with the determination to reflect the collective commitment of everyone working at the Court – is that we have not abandoned the victims. Video EN | OV

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

Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine) – Secretary General, I will pick up on the accountability and in these days and hours when Kyiv and other cities are on fire from Russian drones and missiles, I think the practical steps on establishing the Special Tribunal and actually going from the technical stage to the practical stage is extremely important.

Can you say what is the concrete timeline until the end of this year and maybe update us on your meetings in New York and budget? Video EN | OV

Mr Alain BERSET – And, as we all know, making the Special Tribunal operational is a priority, a strong priority for all of us. It is part of the whole accountability mechanism that we are building. And I want to remind in this context that it's not that nothing is happening so far. I mean, we have, with the European Court of Human Rights, based on the European Convention on Human Rights, rulings coming regularly and concerning the brutal aggression of Ukraine by Russia. We have the Register of Damage, we have the Claims Commission. I will come to this later, and the Special Tribunal. […]

We have now the legal framework and we have also a growing international support. 38 states and the European Union have notified us of their intention to join the Tribunal's Management Committee, including Costa Rica and Australia. And I think the opening of the office in New York will be an important element to reach out further with the Tribunal.

What we need now is political will from states to turn those intentions into formal participation and funding. What I've heard in recent weeks was that several states are waiting for a detailed budget before committing funds. For this, we need a budget from the Netherlands, and the Netherlands expects to provide the hosting figures by the end of the year, giving us a clearer timetable. I had also the occasion in an exchange with the Netherlands in New York to really press and say it is urgent now, we really need to have the

figures, to have the budget. Because without this we are a bit blocked for having the next step of commitment of states for joining. And I also intend to visit The Hague to press for political and financial commitments.
I will keep pressing for that political commitment at every opportunity. And I take also this occasion to pass you a message. I count on this Assembly to do also the same in national parliaments, to urge governments to complete their procedures and to provide the funding needed to make the Special Tribunal operational.
And I take also this occasion, I come back to the Claims Commission, to say that for the Claims Commission we have now a quite large amount of signatures from states, but we need ratifications to have it in force. And the ratification procedures are dependent on local and national procedures. But where the parliament has something to say, please use all the possibilities you have to take influence, to go as fast as possible. We are ready. We are ready for the Tribunal, we are ready for the Claims Commission. We just need strong support now and a clear message and clear signal from the states that are willing to join. Video EN | OV

Question to Mr Johann WADEPHUL, German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania) – First, I would like to answer to your call on more solidarity on the export of Ukrainian cereals. Romania does a lot. And the fact that the Global South is assured with Ukrainian cereals is thanks to the Romanian harbours and railways that are open to that solidarity.
Now I speak as a European and Romanian citizen worried about war escalation and drones all over Europe, the Baltic countries, Poland, Romania, every day, Germany. What can you yourself, dear Minister, and all the other partners do for Ukraine in order to strengthen its air defence that could prevent such type of aggression, but also help them face the terrible and brutal attacks of Russia in Ukraine? Video EN | OV

Mr Johann WADEPHUL - You are absolutely right. The threat from the air has now become Ukraine's greatest military problem, and it is particularly despicable that Russia does not hesitate to target civilians in particular.
As an example, you mentioned the recent attack that struck near the German Embassy in Kyiv. We are supporting Ukraine, firstly, with the additional air defence systems at our disposal.
Germany has made substantial contributions, and the German Defence Minister, Mr Boris PISTORIUS, is working tirelessly to secure further systems, including from friendly and allied nations. Many countries – including Germany – have now reached the limits of what is responsible for security reasons. But we are continuing these discussions together. Just last week in New York, I spoke once again with colleagues – from both Europe and Asia – and I am confident that at least two further countries will be able to make arms deliveries to Ukraine. Video EN | OV

Question to H.E. Mr António José MARTINS SEGURO, President of the Portuguese Republic

Mr Bertrand BOUYX (France) – President, On 8 February, you won the presidential election in resounding fashion against the far right, in a political context somewhat reminiscent of that in my own country. In short,

Mr António José MARTINS SEGURO – I believe, this is really my belief, that moderation is not a weakness. And in terms of polarisation and fragmentation, I would even say that moderation is an act of courage. And therefore, what counts is that moderators should take part in the public space and should be available, should make themselves available, so that they can speak up and take on political responsibilities in every country.
I also consider that it is fundamental for persons in politics to be focused on the practical solving of people's problems. Of course, you need free and fair elections. There are all these conditions that I referred to in my speech. But it's also about finding answers to people's problems. And today, what we are seeing is that, in certain cases, the focus hasn't really been to solve people's concrete problems. It's about

Portugal has shown France the way forward.
Since then, you have been received by President Emmanuel MACRON as part of the implementation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, known as the Treaty of Porto, and I am very proud of this.
President, I would simply like to ask you what lessons you have learnt from this presidential election. I am sure we all have much to learn, given that our countries are under threat from the rise of populism and extremism. Video EN | OV

confrontation. It's been about confrontation between various stakeholders.
What I did during my presidential campaign was precisely to focus on people and not so much on my political adversaries. The enemies of democracy, our enemies, are these problems that we can't solve. Then populists take advantage of that situation. Democrats have a responsibility to act in keeping with their beliefs and to find solutions which improve the lives of persons.
And this is why I would say that focusing on solving people's problems is essential. Many people are suffering. Many people are experiencing difficulties. When I was young, when I was working at the European Youth Centre here in Europe, the future seemed full of potential and possibilities. For young people today, the future seems very limited and frightening. We need to address this. There are all sorts of problems. For example, in my country, young people stay on average in their parents' home until they're 30 years old. This affects their autonomy, their independence, any projects they might have for their lives. That's just an example concerning young people. I could have given you other examples.
And so our responsibility, when we want to accede to a certain position, when we stand for election, is to find solutions. […] Video EN | OV

QUESTIONS

Question to Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Monaco, President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Ms Larysa BILOZIR (Ukraine) – Madam President,
On your recent visit to Kyiv you personally witnessed the consequences of Russian aggression. And today, Kyiv is under permanent attacks, under fire, in the fire, in smoke. We can see now, in the 12th year of war, that justice delayed is justice denied.
Can you elaborate on what progress the Committee of Ministers has achieved under your Presidency towards making the Special Tribunal operational? And what political steps, funding commitments and clear deadlines are needed to accelerate this process? Video EN | OV

Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ – As you pointed out, I visited Kyiv on 15 September, and I can tell you that the issue of justice and accountability featured prominently in the discussions I had with the Ukrainian authorities. Support for Ukraine and the need to ensure accountability for crimes committed in the context of the war of aggression remain, as I have also emphasised, at the heart of the priorities of the Council of Europe and the Monegasque Presidency. And I have no doubt that this concern will remain a priority beyond our Presidency [...]
To date, 38 countries, as well as the European Union, have revealed their intention to accede to the resolution establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. Work is continuing to fulfil the conditions necessary for this agreement to enter into force, in particular – and I believe this is important – by ensuring the financial viability of the Special Tribunal. A preparatory team is actively working on the legal, institutional and operational aspects of its establishment, in close co-operation with the Dutch authorities. At the same time, the Committee of Ministers' working group, the GT-TRIBUNAL, is continuing its work on the decision required for the agreement to enter into force, while preparations for the budget are progressing.
Our objective is simple: to secure the broadest possible support within the Council of Europe and beyond. This Special Tribunal forms part of a wider framework of justice and redress. As I said in my address, the Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine now has 41 signatories. The Register of Damage for Ukraine, for its part, is fully operational, with 195,000 claims submitted, 65,000 of which have been registered. We have also discussed this with the Ukrainian authorities. We are continuing to work with them to finalise the Council of Europe's new Action Plan for Ukraine for the period 2027–2030. And I must say that the Ukrainian authorities are eagerly awaiting for this to be finalised […]
Video EN | OV

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Monday 28 September 2026

Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (Doc. 16484); Observation of the parliamentary elections in Armenia (7 June 2026) (Doc. 16486); Observation of the early elections to the Assembly of Kosovo* 2(7 June 2026) (Doc. 16480)

Mr Claude KERN (France) – For my final speech in this Assembly, I wished to take some liberty with the task set before me. I was asked to take stock of the last few months, but I shall broaden this to cover the nine years that have passed since I joined this House in 2017, because the world has changed. War has returned to our continent. And we have seen democratic principles that we thought were firmly established being eroded. I am thinking of Ukraine, of course, but also of Georgia. I had the opportunity to monitor developments in that country as part of a mission you entrusted to me, during which we saw the rule of law, political pluralism and civil liberties erode, year after year. But we would be wrong to believe that these abuses concern only a few states. Today we see major democracies sanctioning international judges or refusing to invite international observers to their elections. […] Over the years, I have observed elections, monitored countries and voted on resolutions. I have also come to realise the limits of our action. We raise the alarm, we condemn, we make recommendations, and yet, despite all this, the situation continues to deteriorate. But these limitations must never become an excuse for giving up. It is precisely when our tools seem inadequate that our principles must remain firm. More, video EN | OV

Tuesday 29 September 2026

General policy debate: Council of Europe: grounded in core values to meet the challenges ahead

Mr Iulian BULAI (Romania) – The Secretary General has announced his plans to reform this organisation. We too believe that our unique organisation must have renewed relevance in a changing world. We too think that relevance is also about bringing the highest level of politicians, both in the Committee of Ministers and also in the Assembly, to work together on the challenges ahead. Mister Secretary General, the message on behalf of the Liberals is that we fully support you to invest your energy outwards. We fully support you to ask every day the release of Ms Elene KHOSHTARIA, mother of four in Georgia, still in prison. And by the way, they are about to ban all the opposition parties. We fully support you to ask for the release of Mr Anar MAMMADLI in Azerbaijan, in prison for many years, to ask for the release of Mr Osman KAVALA, and also doing so publicly, that is very important for us to have a bigger voice than we are in terms of demands that are very relevant to this House. And we also support you to do reforms in order to give us more power, in order to do better together. More, video EN | OV

Current affairs debate: Solidarity with Ceuta: a test case for Europe

Mr Szymon HOŁOWNIA (Poland) – What we need the most, after these heartbreaking events in Ceuta, are facts. Not political narratives. Not slogans and stories designed to stir up our voters about how we are defending our civilisation or humanity. In Ceuta, just as it was recently on the Polish-Belarusian border, it is not a clash between good and evil. On both sides, there are people who simply want a good life for themselves and their loved ones. […] On both sides, there are people. People. Not electorates, not "waves of refugees", people […] So, if not a people are the problem here, who is? People-smugglers and their political sponsors. President Alexander LUKASHENKO lied, lured, and then pushed thousands of innocent people towards our Lithuanian, Latvian border, brutally preventing them from returning home. We can only speculate today who sought to exploit people's good intentions in Ceuta, but we want to find out.. More, video EN | OV

Joint debate: Towards coherent policies on veterans in Europe (Doc. 16473); The need for systemic support to Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities (Doc. 16464)

Ms Manuela PERTEGHELLA (United Kingdom) – Across Europe, the number of veterans is growing […] After asking people to defend our democracies, our values, our freedoms and our security, we must be prepared to guarantee them dignity, opportunity and support when their service ends. […] Too many veterans, particularly those living with disabilities, women veterans, LGBTI soldiers, former prisoners of war and their families, face many barriers. […] The call for the creation of common European standards on veterans' rights and well-being, grounded in the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter, is necessary. Ensuring access to medical care, mental health services, prosthetics care, education, training and employment opportunities is our duty. […] A country, a continent even, will be judged by how it treats its veterans, those who sacrificed so much in service to their nation. More, voting results 1, 2, Video EN | OV

The role of diasporas and migrants in developing social cohesion and democratic engagement (Doc. 16476)

Lord Michael GERMAN (United Kingdom) – Housing, language, employment, understanding the norms and the rules of the host country all require a transition period in which help is needed to make the journey as short as possible. […] As the report correctly points out, diasporas have a major role to play in promoting social cohesion. […] The report in Paragraph 45 makes a very powerful point that social cohesion cannot be secured for the next generation unless young Europeans of all backgrounds are trusted, included and empowered as architects of that future. […] The point I'm making is this: bringing in and funding local diaspora support is essential to building understanding of the complex issues we all face. […] Again, funding language learning programmes are essential, but the ability to work with and through diasporic groups are such an asset because they are able to help understanding through shared language and it's much more simple to assimilate. […] Paragraph 9 of the resolution is the heart of what is proposed. I encourage everyone to read its three points. They're crucial. More, voting results, Video EN | OV

The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Greece (Doc. 16470)

Mr Bogdan BOGDANOV (Bulgaria) – Our group welcomes the balanced report, and we do confirm that Greece is a firmly rooted and resilient democracy […] Recognising this progress, however, cannot mean overlooking persistent weaknesses in democratic accountability. We are particularly concerned by unresolved questions surrounding the Tempi railway disaster and the misuse of European agricultural funds […] The same principle applies to the Predator spyware scandal. Surveillance of politicians and journalists strikes directly at political pluralism and press freedom. On migration, our position must be equally clear. Greece cannot be left alone to manage a European border. […] Allegations of pushbacks, violence or failures at sea must be investigated effectively. We also welcome the Venice Commission's opinion concerning the registration of NGOs and the criminal liability of their members. […] Colleagues, this report is not an indictment of Greece. It is an invitation to protect the democratic progress Greece has achieved. The same standards must apply to every member state, irrespective of its government or political orientation. For the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe group, the principle is simple: no double standards, no political protection, only equal rights, equal rules, accountable power and effective safeguards for every citizen. More, voting results, Video EN | OV

Wednesday 30 September 2026

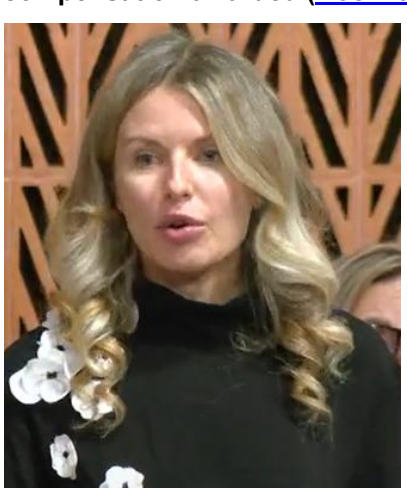
Growing threats to media pluralism and the independence of the media (Doc. 16468)

Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine) – No matter where you are in this hall, freedom of speech, but also the importance of independence of media, also the physical protection of the life of journalists, is of great importance to this Assembly […] We do need transparent information about media owners. We do need strong public broadcasters. We do need independent national regulators. We do need the support for quality journalism, especially on the local level [...] Also, I want to reflect on what the influence of the Russian aggression is to journalists. Not just Ukrainian journalists, but media workers, media professionals that cover this war. So far, Russia had killed 137 media professionals. 15 of them were reporting while they were killed. One of them was killed in Russian prison, Ms Viktoriia ROSHCHYNA. But 27 Ukrainian journalists are right now in Russian captivity. More, voting results, Video EN | OV

Threats to the International Criminal Court (Doc. 16475)

Ms Louise MOREL (France) – On behalf of the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), I wish to state here, in no uncertain terms, that we condemn all attacks against the International Criminal Court (ICC): against its independence, against its judges, and against its Statute […] Yet, barring a judge from entering a country, freezing their assets, and cutting them off from banking services: this runs counter to the rule of law. […] Attacking judges is a sign of authoritarian drift. That is why we welcome this debate and wish to reiterate that the law is strong only if it is independent. […] The ALDE Group therefore calls on all member states of the Council of Europe to publicly reaffirm their support for the Court, to co-operate fully with it and to guarantee it the resources it needs to function, and for us to protect all those who serve it: judges, prosecutors, staff, victims and civil society. To give in today – and I shall conclude on this point – would be to open the door to arbitrariness tomorrow. More, voting results, Video EN | OV

Joint debate : Urgent debate: Fake 'elections' in Russia and its destabilising attacks on Europe (Doc. 16498) ; How to ensure the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the Russian Federation, including payment of the compensation awarded (Doc. 16478)



Ms Lesia VASYLENKO (Ukraine) – Ten days ago, the world witnessed a major circus entitled "elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation". No genuine political competition. Opposition politicians, civil-society and media imprisoned, persecuted and forced into exile. No independent international observers either. Moreover, these so-called elections were conducted illegally on the territory of another sovereign state [...] The second report in this debate addresses the multitude of human-rights violations that Russia has been committing for decades, but somehow managed to escape responsibility for, every time. Today, over 3 000 judgments against Russia remain pending implementation. In addition, millions of Ukrainians are suffering daily from the destruction brought on by Russian attacks. The total damage amounts to almost 500 billion euros and recovery will take years. On behalf of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, I would like to also thank the rapporteur, Mr Tony VAUGHAN, for addressing the issue of a proper compensation mechanism for the victims of Russian aggression and for making it particularly clear that Russian frozen assets should form part of that mechanism. More, voting results 1, 2, Video EN | OV

Thursday 1 October 2026

General policy debate: Europe, the fastest-warming continent: accelerating climate action with young people (Doc. 16493)

Ms Yuliia OVCHYNNYKOVA (Ukraine) – I propose five concrete principles for real influence. First: make intergenerational justice real. Second: assess decisions through the eyes of future generations. Third: protect young environmental defenders. Young people must be free to speak, organise and act peacefully. Environmental engagement is not a threat to democracy; it is democracy in action. Fourth: make climate literacy part of democratic resilience. In an age of disinformation, young people need science, critical thinking and environmental education. Fifth: give young people a structured role in decision-making. Let us build on the Council of Europe's pioneering youth co-management model and bring young people directly into our environmental work and the Reykjavik process […] Dear colleagues, participation without influence is not enough. Let us move from consultation to influence, from promises to accountability, and from speaking about future generations to working with them. More, voting results, Video EN | OV

The role of the OECD in evaluating the impact of artificial intelligence on the future of work (Doc. 16472)

Mr Régis BERGONZI (Monaco) – Whether we welcome it or are concerned about it, artificial intelligence is already present in our offices, our public administrations and our practices. With generative AI and, now, agents capable of carrying out complex tasks independently, it is no longer just the tools that are changing. It is professions, organisations and decision-making processes that are evolving. Faced with this, there are two equally dangerous temptations: paralysing doom-mongering and uncritical enthusiasm that leaves us defenceless. We advocate a third way: legislating on the basis of facts. This is precisely what the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) enables. […] We therefore support this report. We call for the ratification of the Framework Convention and emphasise that the assessment requires comparable data published at regular intervals and close cooperation between the OECD, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Council of Europe. More, voting results, Video EN | OV

Debate under urgent procedure: Repression and targeted attacks on LGBTI persons and defenders in Türkiye (Doc. 16499)

Ms Meritxell ALCOBÉ (Andorra) – Recent events in Türkiye are particularly worrying […] The growing repression targeting LGBTI people and those who defend their rights – including arrests, detentions, persecution, digital restrictions and bans on peaceful demonstrations – constitutes a violation of citizens' fundamental rights. We must also reflect on the fact that, in the 21st century, the diversity of family forms is still, at times, difficult to understand and accept. Families can take many different forms. Rainbow families are now a reality. They are part of the diversity of our societies and must be recognised, respected and protected just like any other family. Recognising this diversity does not undermine the family. It means acknowledging the reality of our societies and guaranteeing the same rights to everyone [...] We must make this clear: the rights of LGBTI people are human rights. Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and the right to live free from discrimination must be guaranteed to everyone. More, voting results, Video EN | OV

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RESULTS

Towards a family-friendly Europe: policy recommendations for demographic renewal (Doc. 16477)

Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO (Monaco) – This report has the merit of making the right assessment […] Above all, it reminds us that the aim is not to pressure people into having children, but to remove the obstacles preventing them from realising their family plans. One question strikes me as just as crucial: what do we mean when we talk about family policy? If we want to build a Europe that is truly family-friendly, we must accept the diversity of families. A credible family policy must take into account single-parent families, families dealing with disability, blended families, and also rainbow families, because supporting the family cannot mean establishing a hierarchy among families. On the contrary, it must mean enabling every family to benefit from dignified and fair conditions in which to raise their children […] I would like to place particular emphasis on rainbow families. In several European states, they still face legal and administrative barriers that can undermine the recognition of their family life and, above all, place children in a situation of uncertainty that should not exist.… More, voting results, Video EN | OV

Friday 2 October 2026

Restructuring and streamlining the Rules of Procedure: modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly (Doc. 16482)

Ms Sona GHAZARYAN (Armenia) – The restructuring of our rules of procedures may appear at the first sight to be a technical exercise, but clear rules are an essential part of the credibility and effectiveness of any parliamentary institution. It's not an attempt to redefine the substance of the Assembly's external relations, rather it's an effort to bring greater clarity, coherence and accessibility to the framework through which these relations are conducted. Our external and interparliamentary relations already serve as an important purpose promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, strengthening parliamentary institutions and developing parliamentary diplomacy. More, voting results, Video EN | OV

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