



AS/Per (2023) OJ 02rev

10 May 2023

Standing Committee

Revised draft agenda

of the meeting to be held

in Reykjavík on Monday 15 May 2023 from 14:15 to 18:30

(Venue: Iceland Parliament Hotel, Thorvaldsenstraeti 2-6, 101, Reykjavík, Iceland)

1. **Opening of the meeting by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly**
2. **Welcome address by Mr Birgir Ármannsson, Speaker of Alþingi – Parliament of Iceland**
3. **Video message by Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**

4. **Agenda**

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Adoption of the revised draft agenda

5. **Special event on the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe - United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges**

Introductory remarks by **Mr Bjarni Jónsson**, Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly

Remarks by **Mr Bjørn Berge**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

“The Council of Europe as a key player of the multilateral architecture”

Interactive panel discussion moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of:

- Ms Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland
- Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly
- Ms Sylvie Bermann, former Ambassador of France to Beijing, London, and Moscow
- Ms Alice Bergholtz, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Exchange of views with members of the Assembly

**This document is the convocation to the meeting
for the members of the Standing Committee**

Copy for information to the Secretaries of delegations and political groups



“The Council of Europe as a pioneer of human rights protection: the new generation of rights”

Interactive panel discussion moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfsson, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of:

- Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland
- Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly
- Mr Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Ms Nathalie Smuha, Researcher and Assistant Lecturer, Institute for European Law, KU Leuven, expert on Artificial Intelligence
- Ms Tinna Hallgrímsdóttir, youth representative in the Icelandic Climate Council

Exchange of views with members of the Assembly

Statement by Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition

Concluding remarks by Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, and Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly

6. Other business

7. Next meeting

Riga, 26 May 2023



Concept note

Special event on the Reykjavik Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe – United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges

to be held in the context of the meeting of the Standing Committee in Reykjavík on Monday 15 May 2023 from 14:30 to 18:30

(Venue: Iceland Parliament Hotel, Thorvaldsenstraeti 2-6, 101, Reykjavík, Iceland)

1. Background

1. Europe is at a defining moment of its history. The return of a large-scale war of aggression in Europe has highlighted that the solidity and resilience of European democracies, their respect for human rights and their adherence to the rule of law are the best guarantees for each other's prosperity, security and peaceful future.

2. This is why the Reykjavík Summit is a historic opportunity for European leaders to reaffirm their unity around common values, express their support for Ukraine, demand the Russian Federation's accountability, and launch a renewed, forward-looking agenda for the Council of Europe, in the face of the present extraordinary challenges to peace and security, multilateralism, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

2. The parliamentary dimension of the Summit

3. The Parliamentary Assembly has put all its political weight in support of the Summit, pushing for it to be held and providing a substantive input to it through a host of texts, including its [Recommendation 2245 \(2023\)](#) on *The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe - United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges*, which is the result of an inclusive process of reflection and provides a far-reaching and comprehensive proposal.¹

4. On the eve of the gathering, members of parliament from the 46 member States of the Council of Europe, represented by the Standing Committee, as well as members of other delegations to the Assembly, will continue to be part of this process and hold a discussion on two themes which will be at the heart of the Summit's deliberations. The conclusions of the proceedings, which will be delivered orally by the Prime Minister of Iceland, Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Tiny Kox, will be referred to in their interventions at the Summit.

3. The themes

A) *The Council of Europe as a key player of the multilateral architecture*

5. Thanks to its conventions and standard-setting role as well as its whole machinery relying on political dialogue, monitoring and co-operation, the Council of Europe is the cornerstone of the rules-based multilateral order in Europe. In the new security context fraught with risks following the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, this role should be strengthened.

6. The Summit should upgrade relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union, deepening the strategic partnership between the two organisations based on their shared values and commitment to promoting peace, security and stability on the European continent and supporting multilateralism worldwide.

7. The Council of Europe should strengthen co-operation with interested States and organisations not only in its geographical neighbourhood but also in its political proximity. More robust co-operation with the United Nations, its agencies and mechanisms would also be instrumental to supporting global governance, rules-based multilateralism and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹ Other key reference texts are listed in Appendix I



8. Supporting rules-based multilateralism also means ensuring that there is a comprehensive accountability system for the serious violations of international law arising out the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, with full reparation of the damage caused to Ukraine and its citizens.

B) *The Council of Europe as a pioneer of human rights protection: the new generation of rights*

9. Since its foundation, the Council of Europe has been a pioneer in human rights protection, setting standards to fill major legal gaps, including through the drafting of conventions which were visionary at the time of their adoption. These conventions have had a tangible impact on the lives of many people in Europe, for instance in the areas of the prevention of torture, trafficking, the protection of children from sexual violence or the protection of women against gender-based and domestic violence.

10. The capacity of the Organisation to develop legal instruments in emerging areas of concern must be preserved and promoted. Europe can rightly be praised for being a human rights forerunner worldwide thanks to its foresight in elaborating legal norms. It should continue along these lines, because societies are evolving rapidly, and a human rights protection system which does not keep up with developments becomes quickly obsolete and unfit for purpose. Thus, the Council of Europe should embark on addressing new generations of human rights.

11. In this regard, it is impossible to remain deaf to widespread public demands for governments to tackle climate change and prioritise long-term environmental sustainability over immediate economic concerns. Additional priority areas should include artificial intelligence, data protection, social rights, gender equality and protection against gender-based violence and discrimination.

4. Format of the event

12. Each theme will be introduced by a panel, who will include political leaders, public officials, experts and civil society representatives. After each panel discussion, the floor will be opened to the members of the Standing Committee and other delegations to the Assembly, who will be able to share their views and ask questions to the panellists.

5. Assembly participants

- Members of the Standing Committee
- Delegations of Partners for democracy, Observers with the Assembly and the delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo* (one member each).

Appendix I - Reference texts of the Parliamentary Assembly

[Recommendation 2245](#) (2023) on The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe - United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges

[Resolution 2482](#) (2023) on Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine

[Resolution 2473](#) (2022) on Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as the cornerstone of the European political architecture

[Resolution 2444](#) (2022) and [Recommendation 2235](#) (2022) on Recent challenges to security in Europe: what role for the Council of Europe?

[Resolution 2436](#) and [Recommendation 2231](#) (2022) on The Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine: ensuring accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law and other international crimes

[Resolution 2396](#) (2021) and [Recommendation 2211](#) (2021) on Anchoring the right to a healthy environment: need for enhanced action by the Council of Europe

[Resolution 2341](#) (2020) and [Recommendation 2181](#) (2020) on Need for democratic governance of artificial intelligence