



# NEWSLETTER

June 2023 part session | Unified European Left | PACE

## Opening speech

### June part session

- ◆ **PACE President Tiny Kox (UEL, Netherlands)**

## Upcoming activities

### July

- ◆ **Chair George Katrougalos (Greece)** to represent the group in the ad hoc committee to participate in the side event "**decent work: building a sustainable future**" to the **high level political forum on sustainable development** in New York at the UN Headquarters (14 July)

- ◆ **Chair George Katrougalos (Greece)** to represent the group in the EL and transform!Europe Summer University 2023 in Ljubljana, Slovenia (6-9 July)

### October

The next meetings of the UEL group will be held during the October part session from 9 to 13 October 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Watch:** PACE President Tiny Kox (UEL, Netherlands) **reviews the highlights** of the Assembly's **2023 summer session**

### *Reports by UEL Members adopted during the June part session*

During the June part session the Assembly adopted with an overwhelming majority the report by rapporteur **Paul Gavan** (Ireland) on Ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor

Reference: Interview with Paul Gavan (Ireland)

### *Statements*

19 June: After the adoption of the Reykjavik Declaration, PACE President calls on member States 'to walk the talk'

20 June: PACE rapporteurs warn against extradition to the United States of Julian Assange

### *Questions by UEL Members*

**Laura Castel (Spain)** asked a question to the **Secretary General of the Council of Europe**, Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ-BURIĆ about ending the political persecution inside the Council of Europe.

#### Answer

**George Katrougalos (Greece)** asked a question to the **Mr Péter SZIJJÁRTÓ, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary** about a diplomatic plan for peace.

#### Answer

**Laura Castel (Spain)** asked a question to the **Mr Edgars RINKĒVIČS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and Chair of the Committee of Ministers** about the June 14 tragic shipwreck which occurred off the Greek coast and the poor response by EU Frontex and human rights

#### Answer

**George Katrougalos (Greece)** asked a question to the **President of Slovenia**, Ms Nataša PIRC MUSAR, about a possible overlap between the COE summit and the European Political Community summit

#### Answer

### *Side events organised by UEL Members*

Revisiting the functioning of democratic institutions and rule of law in Türkiye. Role of international instruments in improving Türkiye's capacity to honour the obligations deriving from COE membership.

Sponsored by Paul Gavan (Ireland)

## Reports under preparation by UEL members

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- \* Analysis and guidelines for a sustainable and socially fair energy transition

Committee on social affairs, health and sustainable development

Rapporteur: Antón GÓMEZ-REINO (Spain)

- \* The role of sites of remembrance: places of commemoration and education for democratic citizenship

Committee on culture, science, education and media

Rapporteur: Nina KASIMATI (Greece)

- \* The activities of the OECD (new title: Globalisation in times of crises and war: the role of the OECD since the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine)

Committee on political affairs and democracy

Rapporteur: George KATROUGALOS (Greece)

## Reference of motions for resolutions

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Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, tabled by Paul Gavan (Ireland) has been referenced to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (AS/POL) for report

Shaping the Parliamentary Assembly's relations with the United Nations Human Rights Council tabled by Mr George Katrougalos (Greece) has been referenced to AS/POL for report

## Work in Committees

Following the request for opinions by the Monitoring Committee, the **Venice Commission** issued an interim opinion on the Article 49.3 of the Constitution, and a Joint opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the Superior Council of Magistracy and the status of the judiciary as regards nominations, mutations, promotions and disciplinary procedures, both adopted by the Venice Commission at its 135th Plenary Session (Venice, 9-10 June 2023)

## Elections and Election observation missions

**George Katrougalos** (Greece) and **Andrej Hunko** (Germany) to represent the group in the observation mission of the Parliamentary elections in **Poland** to be held mid-October / Early November

## Exchange of views with invited guests

The group held an exchange of views with:

The UEL legal observer in the case of Julian Assange, Dr. Deepa Govindarajan Driver

## Motions for resolutions

The detention of Julian Assange and its chilling effects on human rights tabled by Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir and other members of the Assembly has been transmitted to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for consultation

Impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market, tabled by Antón Gomez-Reino (Spain) has been transmitted to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for information [report on a very similar topic already in 2020: "Artificial intelligence and labour markets: friend or foe?"]

Social mobilisation, social unrest, and police reaction in Council of Europe member States: need for a new social contract? tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development has been referenced to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for report

Self-determination and territorial integrity in the 21st century, tabled by Thomas Pringle (Ireland)

## Written declarations

Judicial harassment of Turkish sociologist Pinar Selek

Do not extradite Julian Assange to the United States