



NEWSLETTER

April 2023 part session | Unified European Left | PACE

Opening speech

April part session

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

Upcoming activities

May

- ◆ **Anton Gomez-Reino (Spain)** to represent the group in the Bern Parliamentary conference on **'Elections in times of crisis'** (9-10 May)

- ◆ The **Standing Committee** to meet on 15 May in Reykjavik giving the **4th Council of Europe summit of the heads of States and Governments** to be held in Reykjavik on 16-17 May a **parliamentary dimension** thanks to the efforts of **PACE President Tiny Kox (UEL, The Netherlands)**

June

The next meetings of the UEL group will be held during the June part session from 19 to 23 June 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

Reports by UEL Members adopted during the April part session

During the April part session the Assembly adopted with an overwhelming majority the report by rapporteur **George Katrougalos (Greece)** on European Convention on Human Rights and national constitutions and unanimously the report by co-rapporteur **Andrej Hunko (Germany)** on The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by San Marino

Reference: Interview with George Katrougalos (Greece)

Statements

2 March: UEL chair Katrougalos welcomes the Windsor framework

13 March: UEL: There can be no democracy in Türkiye without justice for the HDP

29 March: UEL Statement on the disproportionate use of police force during demonstrations in France

24 April: Statement by Paul Gavan (Ireland), rapporteur on "Addressing the humanitarian consequences of the blockade of the Lachin corridor"

Questions by UEL Members

George Katrougalos (Greece) asked a question to the **Secretary General of the Council of Europe**, Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ-BURIĆ about the possibility of a European diplomatic proposal for peace.

Answer

Anne Stambach-Terreoir (France) asked a question to the **Commissioner on human rights**, Dunja Mijatovic about the right to assembly and the disproportionate violence by law enforcement to the demonstrations against the pension reform in France.

Answer

Paul Gavan (Ireland) asked a question to the **Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland** and Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Ms Þórdís Kolbrún Reykþjörð GYLFAÐÓTTIR about new pieces of British government legislation threatening to undermine the human rights framework of the Good Friday agreement

Answer

Andrej Hunko (Germany) asked a question to **President of Iceland**, Mr Guðni Thorlacius JÓHANNESON about Julian Assange

Answer

Reports under preparation by UEL members

- * 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

Committee on political affairs and democracy

Rapporteur: George KATROUGALOS (Greece)

Motions for resolutions

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, tabled by Paul Gavan (Ireland)

Impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market, tabled by Antón Gomez-Reino (Spain)

Work in Committees

The group welcomes the decision taken by the Monitoring Committee to request **Venice Commission** opinions on:

* 1/ Article 65 of the French Constitution on the composition of the Superior Council of Magistrates and Ordinance No. 58-1270 of 22 December 1958 establishing an organic law on the status of the judiciary, in so far as it concerns nominations, mutations, promotions and disciplinary procedures of magistrates, and

*2/ Article 49 of the French Constitution, and established practice, allowing the government to force the adoption of a bill without a vote of the National Assembly unless the latter votes a motion of no-confidence

Elections and Election observation missions

Andrej Hunko (Germany) chaired the 21-member delegation from PACE for the observation mission of the **early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria** held on 2 April, alongside observers from OSCE's office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

George Loucaides (Cyprus) and **Antón Gomez-Reino** (Spain) to represent the group in the observation mission of the Parliamentary and early Presidential elections in **Türkiye** to be held on 14 May

Nina Kasimati (Greece) to represent the group in the observation mission of the Parliamentary elections in Montenegro to be held on 11 June

Exchange of views with invited guests

The group held an exchange of views with:

The Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Mr Mathieu Mori (France)

The representatives of the Ukrainian Social Movement, Mr Oleksandr Kyselov and Artem Tidva on "challenges of grassroots and left forces and opportunities for social development in Ukraine"

The representatives of the Moldovan opposition on "Republic of Moldova: current developments, vision of the opposition"

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