

Brussels, 28 July 2026
(OR. en)

12234/26

INST 302
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COVER NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	National Parliaments

Subject:	Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) - Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC (Dublin, 12 July 2026) - Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC (Dublin, 12-13 July 2026) = Minutes
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Delegations will find in the Annexes the minutes from the abovementioned meetings as prepared by the Secretariat of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC).



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC

DUBLIN, IRELAND, 12 JULY 2026

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

CHAIR: Mr Barry WARD, Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the Irish *Houses of the Oireachtas*;

Ms Rasa BUDBERGYTĖ, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the *Seimas* of the Republic of Lithuania;

Mr Yiorgos KAROULLAS, Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs of the *Cyprus Vouli ton Antiprosopon*;

Mr Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr WARD extended words of welcome to the participants of the meeting, thanking Troika partners for their input on the consultations that have taken place in advance of the meeting.

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC

Mr WARD introduced the [agenda of the Troika Meeting](#), which had been circulated to delegations on 21 May, and which was adopted without amendments.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF COSAC

Mr WARD presented the [agenda of the Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC](#). The agenda had been circulated to delegations on 21 May. Mr WARD outlined that the agenda proposed

two main sessions, the first focused on the priorities of the Irish Presidency, with the second session consisting of a debate on Parliamentary Cooperation and Democratic Resilience in an Uncertain World. Mr WARD was pleased to confirm to the Troika that scheduled speakers included *An Taoiseach* (Prime Minister) Mr Micheál MARTIN and Commissioner Micheal MCGRATH.

3. DEBATE ON THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE LXXVI COSAC

Mr WARD then moved to a presentation of the main points of the [agenda of the LXXVI plenary meeting of COSAC](#). A draft agenda had been circulated to delegations on 21 May. Participants heard that a broad and ambitious agenda is proposed which is intended to build on the sessions held during the Meeting of Chairpersons. The four proposed sessions were outlined with Mr WARD informing participants that it is the intention to invite representatives of two accession candidate countries to make keynote speeches during the session on Enlargement and the Future of Europe's Neighbourhood.

Mr GONZÁLEZ PONS took the floor to endorse the agenda, recalling the suggestion made during the Cyprus Presidency that all enlargement countries should be afforded the opportunity to take the floor and reflected on the merit of adopting this approach during the proposed session on Enlargement. Further, reference was made to the referendum due to take place in Iceland later this year on the resumption of European Union membership negotiations. With this in mind, it was suggested that the agenda should remain somewhat open to modification should the necessity arise in the interim.

Mr WARD agreed with the points raised by Mr GONZÁLEZ PONS and advised participants that the Irish Presidency would remain open to amendments of the nature discussed during this agenda item.

4. APPROVAL OF THE OUTLINE OF THE 46TH BI-ANNUAL REPORT OF COSAC

The [draft outline of the 46th Bi-annual Report of COSAC](#) was presented by Mr WARD, after which it was approved without comment.

5. LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENCY

Mr WARD informed the Troika that the Irish Presidency had received letters from the Parliaments of Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom House of Lords seeking

participation in COSAC. Following Troika consultation all letters were responded to favourably by the Presidency. An additional letter had been received from San Marino, seeking participation as an observer to both the Meeting of Chairpersons and the Plenary. Mr WARD informed the Troika that due to the late stage of receipt of the letter, it was unfortunately not possible to arrange the attendance of San Marino at the Meeting of Chairpersons but expressed strong enthusiasm to accommodate the request to participate in the Plenary. A letter of support for the participation of San Marino from the Italian *Camera dei Deputati* had also been received by the Irish Presidency. He further informed the Troika that in line with the precedent set by the most recent Presidencies of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus, an invitation had not been extended to Georgia. The letter to Georgia and the subsequent response had been published to IPEX.

Mr WARD informed the Troika that the final letter of intent regarding the co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat for the period 2026-2027 had been received, with the effect that it would be possible to formally close this round of co-financing at the Plenary in December.

Mr WARD referred to the letter received from the Polish *Senat* proposing a visit to Greenland of the COSAC Chairs, which had been shared with Troika partners and uploaded to IPEX for the information of all delegates. He noted that while he would be amenable to facilitating this proposal if it were considered appropriate, there were nonetheless certain sensitivities accompanying this proposal and he asked for the agreement of Troika members to allow for further discussion with relevant partners on this matter before proposing a course of action, underlining that the Troika would be kept informed of any developments.

Finally, the Troika heard that the Presidency had received a letter from the Chairs of the European Affairs Committees of the French *Assemblée nationale* and the French *Sénat* regarding a proposed revision of the Rules of Procedure. Mr WARD voiced his support for this proposal and sought the agreement of the Troika to add this item to the agenda for the Plenary in December.

Mr GONZÁLEZ PONS took the floor to express the support of the European Parliament with regard to the decision adopted on the participation of Georgia and the inclusion of San Marino in the COSAC Plenary. He further confirmed the support of the European Parliament to include the revision of the Rules of Procedure on the agenda for the Plenary, recalling the near unanimity reached on the question during the Danish Presidency.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF COSAC****DUBLIN, IRELAND, 12 - 13 JULY 2026**

Note: The text of keynote interventions which have been shared with the Presidency will be published on IPEX. A video recording of the full meeting is available via the webpage of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Irish Presidency.

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CHAIR: Mr Barry WARD, Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the Irish *Houses of the Oireachtas*.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

Welcoming address by Ms Verona MURPHY, Ceann Comhairle of the *Dáil Éireann*.

In her opening address, Ms MURPHY welcomed the chairs of the European Affairs Committees gathered at Dublin Castle. Ms MURPHY went on to outline that this is the first of six events to be hosted by the *Houses of the Oireachtas* in the Parliamentary Dimension of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. She further thanked *An Taoiseach* (Prime Minister) Micheál Martin for making himself available for the first session of the day to give an overview of the priorities of the Irish Presidency to delegations present.

Ms MURPHY spoke to the challenges faced by the European Union, citing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East as having serious ramifications and economic implications for citizens, referring to the increased costs of living, illustrating the direct impact of such conflicts on the everyday life of citizens. Ms MURPHY raised the dual aspects of social media as a positive force but also as an agent of disinformation which further exacerbates the challenges faced by the Union and is felt on a political level in election turnout and by the early exit of politicians from public life. She drew attention to the varied skill set required by politicians to ensure parliamentary responsibilities are carried out, welcoming conferences such as COSAC in providing an important forum in which to gather, discuss, share experiences, and engage in person. Ms MURPHY spoke to the need to ensure that our democratic model is not taken for granted, referring to the nurturing, support and protection required to ensure a healthy democracy. She further addressed the importance of education and the necessity of ensuring that the sacrifices of the past are not forgotten by future generations. Despite the challenges to democracy faced by the Union, Ms MURPHY told delegates that Russia's war of aggression will never be allowed to subvert democracy and was resolute in expressing unwavering support for Ukraine.

OPENING SESSION

Opening speech by Mr Barry WARD, Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the Irish Houses of the Oireachtas.

Mr WARD opened the session by welcoming all delegates to the first event of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In particular, he took the opportunity to welcome chairs attending COSAC for the first time, namely Mr Yiorgos KAROULLAS from the Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*, Mr Sinuhe WALLINHEIMO from the Finnish *Eduskunta*, Ms Evika SILINA from the Latvian *Saeima*, Mr Peter KALIVODA from the Slovakian *Národná rada*, and Ms Andreja KATIČ from the Slovenian *Národná rada*. A special farewell was also addressed to Mr Jean-François RAPIN of the French *Sénat* who was attending his final Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC.

PROCEDURAL ISSUES AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr WARD informed delegations of the meeting of the Presidential Troika which took place on the preceding day. Delegates heard that the draft agendas of the COSAC meetings during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Irish Presidency, and the draft outline of the Bi-annual Report were presented to the Troika who expressed their support. The Troika was also informed about the letters received by the Presidency.

The next agenda item was the adoption of the agenda of the Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC, which had been distributed by the COSAC Secretariat. There were no remarks or comments, and the agenda was thereby adopted. Following this, the next point was a discussion of the draft agenda of the LXXXVI COSAC Plenary to take place from 6-8 December 2026. Mr WARD presented the planned sessions, with the first session proposed to consider the Priorities of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The second session will focus on the topic of Enlargement and the Future of Europe's Neighbourhood. Mr WARD informed the delegates that it is proposed to hear from up to two representatives from enlargement countries progressing towards EU accession exploring challenges and experiences of the accession journey. The third session will focus on the topic of Climate Adaptation, Just Transition and Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The fourth and final session of the Plenary will explore how to ensure a Safe and Secure Digital Market. Delegates were advised that the draft agenda may be amended somewhat in the interim. There were no remarks or comments, and the draft agenda was thereby accepted.

The next procedural matter considered was that of the approval of the draft outline of the 46th Bi-annual Report of COSAC. Mr WARD advised delegates that the report would reflect the themes of the sessions held throughout the COSAC meetings of the Irish Presidency, as described in the previous section. Mr WARD informed delegates that the questionnaire would be issued immediately following the meeting and proposed a deadline for responses of 2 October. There were no comments or remarks and the outline of the 46th Bi-Annual Report of COSAC was thereby adopted.

The final procedural issue was the consideration of letters received by the Irish Presidency. Mr WARD informed delegations of letters received from Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom House of Lords regarding participation in the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting. The letters had been consulted with the Troika, and the requests had been accepted. An additional letter had been received from San Marino, seeking participation as an observer to both the Meeting of Chairpersons and the Plenary. Due to the late stage of receipt of the letter, it was unfortunately not possible to arrange the attendance of San Marino at the Meeting of Chairpersons, but it has been agreed to accommodate the request to participate in the Plenary. A letter of support for the participation of San Marino from the Italian *Camera dei Deputati* had also been received by the Irish Presidency. Furthermore, Mr WARD informed delegations that, in line with the actions of the preceding Cyprus, Danish and Polish Presidencies, and after consultation with the Troika, the Irish *Houses of the Oireachtas* had decided not to invite representatives from the Georgian *Sakartvelos p'arlament'i* to participate in COSAC. In response to this, a letter had been sent to the Presidency from the Georgian *Sakartvelos p'arlament'i*.

Following the letters of participation, Mr WARD informed delegations that the final letter of intent in relation to the co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat had been received. In addition, a letter had been received from the Chair of the Polish *Senat* and remains under consideration. Finally, Mr WARD informed delegations that a letter had been received from the Chairs of the European Affairs Committees of the French *Assemblée nationale* and *Sénat* regarding the previously proposed changes to the COSAC Rules of Procedure. After having been considered by the Troika, this proposal was added to the agenda of the COSAC Plenary Meeting in December.

SESSION I - PRIORITIES OF THE IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The session was chaired by Mr Barry WARD, Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the *Houses of the Oireachtas*.

The session began with a keynote address by Mr Micheál MARTIN, *An Taoiseach* (Prime Minister) of Ireland. He began by underlining the crucial role played by national parliaments and COSAC in scrutiny of EU affairs and the parliamentary dimension of the EU. He noted that Ireland assumes the Presidency within a challenging and complex geopolitical context in which the rules-based international order is under pressure. The Irish Presidency will prioritise strengthening the competitiveness of the EU, safeguarding fundamental values at home and abroad, and providing for the security of citizens.

On competitiveness, Mr MARTIN noted that there is broad agreement for urgent action and that the Presidency will work to implement the One Europe, One Market Roadmap, and will support measures aimed at enhancing Europe's global economic position. He also pointed to the Savings and Investments Union as well as an ambitious agenda for external trade. When it comes to security, he emphasised that the Presidency will work to safeguard the Union's core values: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect

for human rights. These values remain the foundation of European integration and are indispensable for maintaining public trust, political stability and long-term prosperity across the EU. He underlined enlargement as a key priority. In a wider context, the EU's role as a principled global actor will aim to be strengthened. Within the EU, the Presidency will prioritise work to improve children's safety online. Continued unwavering support to Ukraine will be offered, coupled with increased pressure on Russia. The EU must also continue to improve its own defence capabilities, including through the proposed new European security strategy.

Mr MARTIN then pointed to the negotiations on a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034, and stated that the Irish Presidency was committed to finding agreement on the overarching MFF package before the end of 2026. A new negotiating box will be presented in the autumn.

Lastly, Mr MARTIN emphasised the positive role the EU had played for Ireland as a country, not least in relation to efforts to bring lasting peace to the island. He noted that we today again face challenges we cannot solve as individual countries on our own, and referred to the motto of the Presidency: “Ní neart go cur le chéile”, or Strength with unity.

During the following debate, 34 speakers took the floor.

Most of the interventions welcomed the priorities of the Irish Presidency as set out by Mr MARTIN, with a strong emphasis on competitiveness. A majority of the interventions underlined the importance of regulatory simplification, strengthening the single market, and a focus on promoting innovation and tackling new trends such as AI in order to strengthen Europe's economy. European strategic resilience and autonomy were also mentioned by many of the speakers who took the floor, both in the context of European competitiveness and European security. In the area of security, a responsible handling of illegal migration and strengthened support to the Eastern flank Member States were themes mentioned by some, and several mentioned the need for sufficient resources in the next MFF dedicated to security and defence. The next MFF was a topic mentioned by almost all delegates, with many emphasising the need for a strong Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy, and some arguing for the importance of a responsible and realistic budget size. Another topic mentioned by most delegates was enlargement. There was broad support for progressing on enlargement, supporting candidate countries, and maintaining the merit-based approach. Continued strong support for Ukraine was also mentioned by several delegates, as well as the importance of increased pressure on Russia in order to achieve a just peace. A few delegates voiced concerns connected to the sale of alumina to Russia from the Aughinish Alumina refinery in Ireland. Some speakers also emphasised the importance of enhancing cooperation between national parliaments and European institutions, strong involvement in EU policies from national parliaments, respect for the principle of subsidiarity and effective parliamentary scrutiny.

In his replies and concluding remarks, Mr MARTIN noted that the next MFF is a major concern for many Member States. He emphasised the need to balance funding for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), cohesion policy and the security needs of countries facing threats

from Russia, while aiming to advance budget negotiations by the end of the year. On competitiveness, he stressed that investment in research and innovation is crucial for Europe's future growth and resilience. On enlargement, he underlined that EU enlargement is both a strategic necessity and a geopolitical investment in Europe's future. He expressed confidence that significant progress can be achieved in negotiations with all candidate countries, including Ukraine, by the end of the year. Regarding the sale of alumina, Mr MARTIN noted that the European Commission has not included alumina in the sanctions regime, and highlighted the need to balance the objective of limiting economic links with Russia against the importance of alumina for European supply chains. He further emphasised the value of strong EU–UK relations, which benefit both sides, and described the EU–US relationship as critical, calling for careful and proactive engagement with the United States.

The following speakers took the floor during this debate:

Yiorgos KAROULLAS (Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*), Emine GYULESTAN (Bulgarian *Narodno sabranie*), Peter HAUBNER (Austrian *Nationalrat*), Cinzia PELLEGRINO (Italian *Camera dei Deputati*), Alessandro GIGLIO VIGNA (Italian *Senato della Repubblica*), Rainer ROBRA (German *Bundesrat*), Erik OTTOSON (Swedish *Riksdag*), Ovidiu-Vasile CÎMPEAN (Romanian *Senat*), Adelina Elena DOBRA (Romanian *Camera Deputaţilor*), Sinuhe WALLINHEIMO (Finnish *Eduskunta*), Bojan KEKEC (Slovenian *Državni svet*), Anton HOFREITER (German *Bundestag*), Gabriela MORAWSKA-STANECKA (Polish *Senat*), Vincent BLONDEL (Belgian *Senaat/Sénat*), Katrijn VAN RIET (Belgian *Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants*), Jean-François RAPIN (French *Sénat*), Peeter TALI (Estonian *Riigikogu*), Pieyre-Alexandre ANGLADE (French *Assemblée nationale*), Dimitrios KAIRIDIS (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*), Majda BURIC (Croatian *Hrvatski sabor*), Jelena MILOŠ (Croatian *Hrvatski sabor*), Agnieszka POMASKA (Polish *Sejm*), Evika SILINA (Latvian *Saeima*), Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE (Ukrainian *Verkhovna Rada*), Bora MUZHAQI (Albanian *Kuvendi i Shqipërisë*), Marcel SPATARI (Moldovan *Parlamentul Republicii*), Milan RADIN (Serbian *Narodna skupština*), Burhan KAYATÜRK (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), İsmail Emrah KARAYEL (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), Jovan SUBOTIĆ (Montenegro *Skupština Crne Gore*), Antonijo MILOSHOSKI (North Macedonian *Sobranie*), Jock STIRRUP (United Kingdom *House of Lords*), Pawel BARTOSZEK (Icelandic *Alþingi*) and Himanshu GULATI (Norwegian *Storting*).

SESSION II - PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

The session was chaired by Mr Barry WARD, Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the *Houses of the Oireachtas*.

The session began with a keynote speech given by Mr Michael MCGRATH, European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, followed by Ms Brigid LAFFAN, Emeritus Professor of European Politics at the European University Institute.

Drawing on his experience in local and national politics, Mr MCGRATH opened by emphasising that democracy begins with people and thrives in democratic fora, where governments are held to account, citizens' voices are heard, and trust in democratic institutions is built. He highlighted the challenges facing democracy, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, geopolitical instability, rapid technological change, cyber threats, disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference, all of which are placing increasing pressure on democratic systems. Stressing that democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights are the foundation of the Union and require continuous protection, investment and renewal, he underscored that democratic resilience is central to the Commission's broader priorities. He added that protecting the Union requires safeguarding not only its external borders and territorial integrity but also its democratic foundations and values. Mr MCGRATH presented the European Democracy Shield as the EU's framework for protecting and strengthening democracy against current and future challenges, marking a shift from ad hoc action to a structured, strategic approach. He explained that the Shield adopts a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach built on three pillars: safeguarding the integrity of the information space; strengthening democratic institutions, free and fair elections and free and independent media; and enhancing societal resilience and citizens' engagement. He then outlined the progress made since the launch of the European Democracy Shield, highlighting the establishment of the European Centre for Democratic Resilience and advances in the implementation of initiatives across its three pillars. He also emphasised the importance of parliamentary cooperation, underlining the central role of national parliaments, alongside the European Parliament, in strengthening democratic resilience through oversight, practical cooperation, institutional learning and the exchange of best practices. In conclusion, he reaffirmed that protecting democracy is a shared responsibility requiring determination, vigilance and a shared commitment to democratic values, and expressed confidence that, by working together, Europe's democracies would emerge stronger.

Professor LAFFAN opened her speech by observing that democracy, once widely regarded as secure and stable, has become a matter of increasing concern in the context of an authoritarian turn. Recalling John Philpot Curran's 1790 speech in the Irish Parliament, she cited his observation that "the condition upon which God has given liberty to man is eternal vigilance" and emphasised the need for constant vigilance. She noted the global decline of liberal democracies and stated that the EU, as a union of democracies, provides a framework within which Member States cannot become fully closed autocracies. Referring to developments in Hungary, Professor LAFFAN argued that EU membership prevents complete state capture and preserves the possibility of democratic renewal, even in cases of democratic backsliding. She then turned to the challenges facing European democracies, pointing to democratic erosion, political fragmentation and polarisation, the emergence of anti-system parties and the broader transformation of democratic politics. She remarked that democratic resilience is the capacity of political systems to guard against democratic erosion, adapt to changing systems of political communication and accountability, recover when threatened, navigate the future and address major societal challenges. She added that citizens should feel that decisions are taken fairly, institutions and policies should serve the needs of broad sections of society and corruption should be prevented. Finally, she addressed how changes in political communication, driven

by digital technologies and social media, have contributed to challenges for democracy, including misinformation, declining trust in institutions and increasing polarisation, and highlighted the importance of young people in this context. She called for sustained efforts to strengthen civic, media and digital literacy, protect democratic institutions and uphold democratic standards, concluding that democracy can never be taken for granted and requires continued vigilance.

During the following debate, 26 speakers took the floor.

The debate focused on the role of parliamentary cooperation in strengthening democratic resilience in an increasingly uncertain geopolitical environment. Many speakers underlined the importance of closer cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament to strengthen citizens' trust in democratic institutions, exchange good practices and uphold the rule of law.

A recurring theme throughout the debate was the need to strengthen the EU's capacity to respond to hybrid threats, including foreign interference, disinformation and cyberattacks. Many speakers welcomed the European Democracy Shield and stressed the importance of its effective implementation, together with existing EU instruments, to address these challenges. Participants also underlined the importance of protecting electoral integrity, promoting civic education and media literacy, and ensuring greater transparency and accountability of online platforms.

Security and defence were also addressed during the debate, with many speakers reiterating their continued support for Ukraine and stressing the need to strengthen the EU's defence capabilities, reduce strategic dependencies and reinforce Europe's technological resilience in response to evolving geopolitical challenges.

Several speakers also referred to the EU enlargement process, underlining the importance of maintaining a fair and merit-based accession process. Representatives from candidate countries reiterated their commitment to the European path and stressed the importance of continued progress in the accession process.

Overall, the debate reflected broad agreement that closer parliamentary cooperation is essential to strengthen democratic resilience and respond to the growing challenges posed by hybrid threats, while reaffirming the importance of democratic values and the rule of law.

In her replies and concluding remarks, Professor LAFFAN referred to the geopolitical challenges facing Europe, emphasising that there are no easy geopolitical choices. She stressed the need for Europe to remain an active player in the world, to manage its international partnerships carefully and to continue supporting Ukraine, whose independence she described as essential to Europe's security and to the future of democracy on the continent. She also highlighted the impact of economic disruption, technological change, the cost-of-living crisis and growing wealth inequality on democratic societies. She underlined the importance of strengthening democratic resilience through cooperation and the exchange of best practices, noting that democracy depends not only on elections but also on the rule of law, the protection of fundamental rights and representation.

In his replies and concluding remarks, Commissioner MCGRATH outlined the Commission's ongoing work on the rule of law, anti-corruption, media freedom, digital governance, online child protection and artificial intelligence. He referred to the implementation of relevant EU legislation and policy initiatives and emphasised cooperation between the Commission, Member States and candidate countries to strengthen democratic resilience, while respecting the division of competences. He further highlighted efforts to advance the EU's digital sovereignty and stressed the importance of delivering on issues relevant to citizens in order to reinforce trust in public institutions and democracy. He reaffirmed the Commission's continued support for candidate countries in pursuing reforms necessary for EU accession.

The following speakers took the floor during this debate:

Cinzia PELLEGRINO (Italian *Senato della Repubblica*), Alessandro GIGLIO VIGNA (Italian *Camera dei Deputati*), Elena-Adelina DOBRA (Romanian *Senat*), Sinuhe WALLINHEIMO (Finnish *Eduskunta*), Anton HOFREITER (German *Bundestag*), Edite ESTRELA (Portuguese *Assembleia da República*), Gabriela MORAWSKA-STANECKA (Polish *Senat*), Andreja KATIČ (Slovenian *Državni zbor*), Rainer ROBRA (German *Bundesrat*), Jean-François RAPIN (French *Sénat*), Peeter TALI (Estonian *Riigikogu*), Pieyre-Alexandre ANGLADE (French *Assemblée nationale*), Dimitrios KAIRIDIS (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*), Jelena MILOŠ (Croatian *Hrvatski sabor*), Agnieszka POMASKA (Polish *Sejm*), Katrijn VAN RIET (Belgian *Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants*), Eric KEMPERMAN (Dutch *Eerste Kamer*), Bente BECKER (Dutch *Tweede Kamer*), Petr SOKOL (Czech *Poslanecká sněmovna*), Života STARČEVIĆ (Serbian *Narodna skupština*), Milan RADIN (Serbian *Narodna skupština*), Jevrosima PEJOVIĆ (Montenegro *Skupština Crne Gore*), Burhan KAYATÜRK (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), İsmail Emrah KARAYEL (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE (Ukrainian *Verkhovna Rada*), and Saranda IMERI STAFI (North Macedonian *Sobranie*).