

# **DEMOCRACY SUPPORT AND ELECTION COORDINATION GROUP**

## **Annual Work Programme for 2020**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*In line with the “Implementing Provisions on Democracy Support and Election Observation Activities”, the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) is responsible for four main areas of activities, namely - election observation, parliamentary capacity support, human rights actions, as well as mediation, facilitation and dialogue. The Annual Work Programmes (including the current one for 2020) cover the latter three areas, with EP election observation delegations being subject to a separate bi-annual procedure in DEG.*

*The newly established DEG, constituted in October 2019, reconfirmed the Comprehensive Democracy Support Approach (CDSA) - applied since 2014 - as a guiding principle of the Group’s work in the 9th legislature.*

*In line with the Approach, the DEG carries out the bulk of its activities in a manner that is coherent with, and complementary to, the electoral cycles of a limited number of third countries. Taking into account the DEG experience, impact of activities and lessons learnt from the previous legislature, DEG reconfirmed the following six priority countries/regions for enhanced democracy support activities under the CDSA: Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Tunisia, Western Balkans (as a priority region), and the Pan-African Parliament (as a priority regional parliament). Activities with Turkey have been mainstreamed throughout the thematic areas of DEG’s work. The choice of the priority countries will be reviewed at mid-term and adjustment along urgent EP political priorities.*

*A number of activities, also covering countries/regions beyond the priority ones, will be organised under three specific thematic areas.*

*1) Pre and post elections activities, primarily using the new instrument of Parliamentary Electoral Dialogues (PEDs). 2020 is the pilot year for these activities and the PEDs will be organised in a couple of DEG priority countries. In addition, pre-election PEDs could be sent to Ethiopia and Ivory Coast and post-election PEDs - to Lebanon and Zimbabwe. In addition, the EP - under DEG’s guidance - will co-host jointly with EEAS in the second half of 2020, the 15th annual Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (DoP).*

*2) Parliamentary mediation and dialogue is now a well-recognised and successful tool within the overall EU democracy support activities. Focused both on priority countries/regions and beyond, based on political demand, it is implemented through established instruments that continue to innovate within overall EU approaches, namely: Parliamentary Mediation; Inter-Party Dialogue and consensus building, including the Jean Monnet Dialogues for Peace and Democracy; the Prevention of Election-related Violence; support to conflict prevention and peace processes; and a new programme to support Women Peace-builders. In addition, the well-established Young Political Leaders (YPL) Programme will continue as a highly visible and innovative peace building and conflict prevention instrument.*

***3) The Human Rights actions, including the Sakharov Prize Network and Fellowship, are focused on the support to partner parliaments in mainstreaming human rights into legislation and overseeing their implementation, strengthening the links between parliaments/government authorities and civil society, supporting human rights defenders (in particular Sakharov laureates), strengthening free and pluralistic media. The newly developed Simone Veil programme - for empowering women parliamentarians - will also be an essential element of the human rights activities in 2020.***

***Activities in priority countries/regions and in certain thematic areas will be developed and implemented under the political guidance of Lead MEPs, as appointed by the DEG (See Annex 1). As always, these activities will be conducted in close cooperation and coordination with AFET and DEVE and the relevant EP interparliamentary delegations, with a view to fostering consistency and visibility of parliamentary diplomacy, as well as with other EU institutions and the international donor community, where relevant.***

***For 2020, a specific budget of 1.335.000 EUR will be available to implement the DEG activities that are presented in this 2020 Annual Work Programme.***

## I. PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

In its priority countries/regions, DEG uses - as much as possible - the full spectrum of its wide range of actions, focusing its assistance and resources for the greatest and most sustainable impact.

Six countries/regions have been reconfirmed by DEG for enhanced democracy support activities, namely Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Tunisia, Western Balkans (as a priority region), and the Pan-African Parliament (as a priority regional parliament). Activities with Turkey have been mainstreamed throughout the thematic areas of DEG's work. The DEG has already worked closely with these countries/regions during the past legislature (or longer, in certain cases), providing their parliaments and parliament-related players with relevant democracy support and assistance via its well-established election observation activities, capacity-building programmes, human rights actions and mediation and dialogue initiatives.

**Separate programmes for each country/region are elaborated below** and will be carried out under the political guidance of the newly appointed Lead Members. Due to recent or expected changes in the political environment in a number of these countries, the programmes (namely for Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Tunisia) will start with **a fact-finding mission by the Lead Member (based on the work done in the previous legislature)**, to present to interested parties (parliamentarians, political factions, civil society, other international donors and democracy support providers, think tanks, etc.) the type and range of activities the EP can develop through its Comprehensive Democracy Support Approach and to identify and discuss the relevant needs. Based on the findings of these missions, the specificities of the proposed programmes below will be further enhanced and concrete topics for activities in the coming years will be established, in full partnership with the parliament(s) of the priority country/region. With regard to the Pan-African Parliament, in line with the end-of-legislature recommendations from the previous DEG, the Group will provide democracy support activities on one selected topic in a very targeted, in-depth and structured way, under the "Train the trainers" approach, aiming to build in-house capacity more effectively.

In addition, **regional initiatives** - especially for the three associated countries, i.e. Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, which share similar expectations and face challenges of the same nature - **will be encouraged and organised**, where possible. They will focus on parliamentary dialogue (such as the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly between the three associated countries), but could also include other activities, as appropriate (such as actions under the Simone Veil programme).

Finally, it should be noted that **all election observation activities** with and beyond the priority countries are **subject to a separate DEG procedure**, and have thus been included in the six-monthly programmes for EP election observation delegations.

All the proposed activities will take place, as has been the case since 2014, in close cooperation and coordination with the relevant EP bodies, other EU institutions and international actors.

## 1. Ukraine

### Lead Member: Michael GAHLER

Following the Revolution of Dignity in 2013-2014 and the subsequent election of pro-Western authorities, the EP engaged in an **unprecedented level of cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (VRU) in the field of democracy support**. In the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two speakers, various activities were organised based on a Needs Assessment Mission. A number of study visits for parliamentarians and/or VRU officials took place, complemented by seminars and training events presented by MEPs and EP officials in Kiev. The EP has also established an innovative and highly visible mediation process of inter-party dialogue under the concept of the Jean Monnet Dialogue, focusing on compromise and consensus building. The EP has observed all elections in Ukraine (parliamentary, presidential and local) since 2014.

All these activities have had a noticeable positive impact on the work and organisation of the VRU. The new political landscape in Ukraine - although still fragile in its democratic transition - is conducive to the continuation and development of the reform efforts and should be encouraged in line with EU reform objectives for the country. **The continuation and possible diversification of the democracy support activities with the VRU is therefore especially relevant** and could be developed as follows:

- ) a **fact finding mission by the Lead Member;**
- ) continuation of **the flagship Jean Monnet Dialogue for Peace and Democracy with the Verkhovna Rada**. This is particularly important following the political changes in Ukraine after the recent presidential and parliamentary elections where the transition to a sustainable parliamentary democracy remains fragile and is a key strategic objective of the EU. In order to ensure the right follow up and to build on the momentum following the recent elections, it is foreseen to have three Jean Monnet Dialogues this year;
- ) organisation of a training course in the format of a **“summer school” for political staff** of the VRU and of the EP;
- ) carrying out of **capacity building activities, conducted in cooperation** with key partners (*inter alia* UNDP's “Rada za Evropu project”, NDI, CMI and others);
- ) **empowerment of women parliamentarians** (through the Simone Veil programme and through specific mediation activities) and fostering exchange between the VRU, **civil society** and government authorities;
- ) possible activities in response to the **situation in the east of the country;**
- ) support to **regional initiatives** involving the three associated countries.

## 2. Georgia

### Lead Member: Viola VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL

As a priority country for EP since 2017, several capacity-building activities have already been organised with the Parliament of Georgia, on a wide range of topics and always with high-level and committed participants, such as study visits on parliamentary oversight, on research and library capacities, on implementation of a code of ethics, or on the legislative cycle. Furthermore, regular meetings in Brussels and in Georgia have taken place between the Lead Member and representatives of Georgian civil society, with a particular focus on the issue of pressure being brought on these organisations by the authorities both in advance of and during recent elections.

Georgia remains a country with a fractious and conflictual political culture between government and opposition in the Parliament, which has been exacerbated by the recent developments concerning the electoral law. In this context and with a view to continuing activities that have had a positive impact on developments in the country and on parliamentary reform, democracy support activities for Georgia in 2020 could include the following:

- ) a **fact finding mission** by the Lead Member;
- ) **launch of a Jean Monnet Dialogue** process to address the chronic political tensions between government and opposition;
- ) organisation of a **study visit for members and officials of the Parliament** in the field of strategized and long-term planning communication, in coordination with Georgia-based international donors. Should this be expressed by Georgian counterparts, study visits focusing on other fields of parliamentary reform should be envisaged;
- ) **empowerment of women parliamentarians** under the Simone Veil Programme (study visit / participation to seminars on gender equality) but also in cooperation with the mediation activities directed towards women;
- ) participation of officials from the Parliament of Georgia in the **Democracy Fellowship Programme** (2-3 weeks secondment in the EP);
- ) **empowerment of civil society actors** in their interaction with parliaments and government authorities (facilitation of civil society inclusion in democracy support activities);
- ) support to **regional initiatives** involving the three associated countries.

### 3. Moldova

#### Lead Member: Dragoș TUDORACHE

Moldova has been a priority country for the EP since 2014 and a range of capacity building activities has taken place during this period. These have covered topics such as the oversight role of parliament; the functioning of committees; empowerment of women parliamentarians; the management of the process of transition from one legislature to another; the role of parliaments in promoting human rights; and the implementation of a code of conduct and effective rules of procedure. The EP has also supported the dialogue on the issue of Gagauz between the Parliament in Chisinau and the People's Assembly in Comrat.

Political instability - to a greater or lesser degree - has been a key feature in Moldova for many years. In 2018, there was uncertainty about the date of the next parliamentary elections, which eventually took place in late February 2019. During this period, the EP focussed on capacity building support to staff of the Moldovan Parliament, which took place mainly through the Democracy Fellowship Programme and covered a wide range of functional areas.

The parliamentary elections of February 2019, which were inconclusive, have been followed by a period of further political uncertainty and problems in forming a stable government. There remains a risk of snap parliamentary elections in 2020. In addition, presidential elections are scheduled for the latter part of the year. The European Parliament has observed both the presidential and parliamentary elections over many years. For both elections, electoral process stability and predictability of the applicable electoral rules, transparency and pluralism of the media and otherwise all forms of political expression, are essential elements of the democratic environment, and the activities of the Work Programme will fully support this.

The EP's activities have been carried out in close cooperation with the EU Delegation in Chisinau, the Moldovan Parliament and with other partners, particularly the UNDP's Democracy Programme (2012-2016) and Strengthening Parliamentary Governance (SPG) in Moldova (2016-2019). The ending of the SPG programme in December 2019 will mean that the EP's support will be even more important. Against this background, the democracy support activities for Moldova in 2020 could include the following activities/topics:

- ) A **fact-finding visit** by the Lead Member;
- ) **Establishing a cross-party dialogue in the Parliament of Moldova through the Jean Monnet Dialogue** (JMD) for Peace and Democracy in order to build cross-party consensus on the reform agenda based on the implementation of the Association Agreement and the strengthening of the country's democratic institutions;
- ) **Empowerment of women parliamentarians** under the Simone Veil Programme (study visit/participation in seminars on gender equality);
- ) **Empowerment of civil society actors** in their interaction with the Moldovan Parliament and government authorities (facilitation of civil society inclusion in democracy support activities).;
- ) **Supporting the parliament of Moldova in the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement**, including parliamentary oversight in a range of

policy areas; the role of parliamentary committees; transparency and openness of the decision-making process; and other relevant topics. These activities should take place in close cooperation with the EU-Funded Twinning Project on strengthening the capacities of the Parliament of Moldova for the EU approximation process;

- ) Other democracy support/capacity building activities (**including study visits to Brussels and workshops in Chisinau**) to be developed as appropriate based on identified development needs. These could include the budgetary role of parliaments; the role of parliaments in external policy; parliamentary ethics and conduct; and strategic communications and tackling misinformation. These would;
- ) Participation of officials of the Parliament of Moldova in the **EP's Democracy Fellowship Programme**. Possible areas could include the budgetary process and parliamentary documentation services;
- ) Support to **regional initiatives** involving the three association countries.



## 4. Tunisia

### Lead Member: Emmanuel MAUREL

Tunisia remains the success story of the 2011 Arab Spring, the only Middle East/North Africa country that has preserved its transition towards democracy. As a priority country since 2015, several capacity-building activities have been organised over the past parliamentary term, from the Tunisian week as a scene-setting event to election observation, study visits by parliamentarians and staff, and human rights work on civil liberties and violence against women.

The EU's willingness to maintain its support Tunisia's efforts to sustain democratisation remains unbroken, notwithstanding the 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections that have changed Tunisia's political landscape and led to a mosaic of political parties in the "Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple" (ARP). Particularly in such a fragmented Assembly, the EP democracy support tools can have a clear added value and EP should step up its activities to support sustainable reforms.

In this context, democracy support activities for Tunisia in 2020 could include the following:

- ) a **fact finding mission** by the EP Lead Member;
- ) **Parliamentary electoral dialogue** on the implementation of EU EOM recommendations, depending on the political will within the ARP;
- ) the **launch of a Jean Monnet Dialogue / Inter-Party Dialogue** to address the political fragmentation amongst the political parties and focusing on compromise and consensus building;
- ) **dedicated projects to promote a more inclusive and equal society** through gender equality, such as:
  - support the **empowerment of women**, in particular women parliamentarians, under the Simon Veil programme through five modules (equality; negotiation, mediation and advocacy; leadership; personal well-being and resilience; and pre-elections) that can be offered separately or combined;
  - activities in **support of the implementation of the law 58/2017 on the eradication of violence against women**, in particular on victims' access to justice, both at local and national level;
  - activities to **raise awareness on the importance of gender equality** in the fight against extremism and radicalisation;
- ) activities to facilitate the **cooperation of the ARP and government authorities with the civil society** around specific topics support; attention will notably be given to the input that all stakeholders, including trade-unions and political foundations, can bring to the designing and conduct of activities;
- ) engaging **Tunisian young political leaders through the Young Political Leaders programme**.

## 5. Western Balkans

### Lead Member: Vladimír BILČÍK and Tanja FAJON

The European Parliament in its resolution of 24 October 2019 has expressed its willingness to *“further step up its democracy support activities (Jean Monnet Dialogues and capacity building) in the region in order to ensure that parliaments play their full role as engines for democratic reform and that they deliver on the European aspirations of the citizens of the region”*.

The 2020 DEG programme for the Western Balkans encompasses a vision of the enlargement as a transformative process aimed at strengthening democracy in the region. This year will be marked by important parliamentary elections in North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia highlighting the need for eventual pre- and post-electoral activities. With some positive exceptions, the Western Balkans are experiencing a trend of democratic weakening characterised by the growing threats to fundamental freedoms, including media freedom, erosion of political pluralism and state capture. As an indicator of this trend, opposition forces are increasingly boycotting parliamentary institutions. Through the instruments of Jean Monnet/Inter-Party Dialogues, capacity building, human rights activities and election observation and follow-up, democracy support activities will therefore focus on supporting the transformation of the political culture of the region to reduce polarisation towards one of consensus building and dialogue. In order to increase the accountability of parliamentary institutions, DEG activities will also focus on empowering citizens and civil society to create effective channels between citizens and institutions.

The DEG support programme for the parliaments of the Western Balkans will also reflect possible involvement of these countries in the ongoing debate on the Future of Europe within the EU.

In light of the growing importance of the region for the European Union, DEG will organise a **Western Balkans Week, which** aims to strengthen the relationship between the European Parliament and the region. The Western Balkans Week will emphasise the parliamentary dimension of the enlargement process and will offer a platform for discussion to actors of change in the region.

Co-ownership with the Western Balkans' Parliaments will be ensured through a coordination meeting with the European Parliament counterparts in the parliaments of the region.

#### a/ Regional Activities

In 2020, the inter-parliamentary conferences programme will focus on those topics that structurally alter the political level playing field, including unfair electoral laws, lack of media freedom and state capture (corruption and organised crime). The programme **“Improving the level playing field”** could be composed of the following conferences at the regional level:

- ) **State Capture.** The aim of the conference is to serve as a platform for discussion on how the Western Balkan Parliaments could share best practises and develop common strategies to tackle corruption, organised crime and its connection to politics. In particular, the conference will address the issues of vote buying, financing of political campaigns and conflict of interest for elected officials and parliamentary staff. The conference will take place in Tirana (tbc).
- ) **Media freedom.** According to the European Federation of Journalists, more than a third of all media freedom violations across Europe for 2018-2019 took place in Southeast Europe. The inter-parliamentary conference will therefore focus on freedom of expression for journalists, media ownership, access to media by political parties and will allow parliamentarians to discuss these challenges in the light of the EU's mechanisms for support of media freedom, such as providing legal assistance, monitoring of policies and providing financial support through IPA programmes. The conference will take place in Belgrade (tbc).
- ) **Electoral Rules.** Conflict between political forces on electoral rules is a major source of polarisation in the Western Balkan political systems. The inter-parliamentary conference on electoral rules will address the relevant issues raised by the reports of the EU and OSCE/ODIHR long-term election observation missions in the region. In particular, it will assess the follow-up initiatives taken by the national authorities to implement the findings of these observation missions. The conference will take place in Montenegro (tbc).
- ) **High-Level Roundtable EP/ Western Balkan Parliaments.** The conference will bring together parliamentary leaders from the Western Balkans and MEPs interested in the region. It will build upon the outcomes of the conferences on State Capture, Media Freedom and Electoral Rules. The event will take place in Brussels.

In addition, sectoral conferences could be organised on the two following topics:

- ) **Environmental challenges.** Although the countries of the Western Balkans face serious environmental challenges, environmental issues are only recently making slow inroads to the region's political agendas. Hence, the inter-parliamentary conference on the topic will serve the goal of fostering a dialogue about pressing environmental concerns among political elites and civil society representatives from the EU enlargement countries. The conference will take place in Pristina (tbc) as part of the country specific programme.
- ) **Fostering support for socio-economic development and tackling the "brain drain" problem.** The so-called "brain-drain" phenomenon remains the most pertinent migration problem across the Western Balkans. An inter-parliamentary conference could focus on how to stop these trends by fostering socio-economic developments in the respective countries. The conference will take place in Skopje (tbc).

The DEG could continue to engage with young people in the region through its Young Political Leaders programme (YPL). The aim in 2020 is to sustain and further develop the successful regional **"Bridging the Gap" platform**, which brings together young Parliamentarians with youth organisation activists. This initiative will be organised together with the European Commission (See "Young Political Leaders" section for more information on the programme).

## **b/ Country-specific activities**

Various activities could be promoted at the national level targeting MPs, parliamentary staff and civil society. They would consist of “country support programmes”; **Jean Monnet Dialogue /Inter-Party Dialogues** (which could progressively be expanded to all countries in the region); **study visits** (including a dedicated offer for women parliamentarians under the Simone Veil Programme); **expert missions**; and the **Pre-Accession Fellowship programme**, which will allow eight officials from enlargement countries, including Turkey, to be placed in the equivalent EP services. A seminar for the Pre-Accession Fellows is foreseen to consolidate the regional network and to boost their work on strengthening the parliaments of the region (October 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina, tbc).

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

A specific “country support programme” could take place in Bosnia. The European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Office in BiH could organise a “Convention for Democracy” in BiH in April 2020. The Convention aims at improving the accountability and legitimacy of the Bosnian parliamentary institutions and provide Members of Parliaments with innovative tools to connect more effectively with citizens.

The event will mark the start of a longer programme on supporting democracy in BiH (“Revitalising Democracy”), which will be composed of various bottom-up activities including innovative tools of democracy such as mini publics and a Forum for Democracy on the state, entity, cantonal and local levels.

### **Kosovo**

A country-specific programme on Kosovo could focus on strengthening the role of the Parliament as an engine of democratic reforms with a focus on the integrity of the electoral process. In particular, building on the recommendations of the European Union long-term Election Observation Mission and on the request from the Kosovar parliament, it foresees a seminar/Parliamentary Electoral Dialogue (PED) with MPs focusing on two issues. Firstly the adoption of a new legal framework for campaign and party finance through a revision of the Law for Financing of Political Parties. Secondly the adoption of the Draft Code of Criminal Procedure, which includes new provisions concerning the suspension of officials from duty in relation to abuse of office power. The Chief Observer and the Head of the EP election observation mission would take part in the event.

### **North Macedonia**

In 2018, a Jean Monnet Dialogue process was launched with the Macedonian Sобрание, following up on the work of the three MEPs who acted as mediators, together with Commissioner Hahn, during the negotiations and the implementation of the Przino agreement. The JMD process will continue to focus on the Rules of Procedure and the ambitious administrative reform of the institution, providing also a much-needed platform for dialogue and consensus-building to the Sобрание (see “Jean Monnet Dialogues and Inter-Party Dialogues” section for more information on the process).

**Serbia**

The Inter-Party Dialogue in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, initiated in 2019, should be continued and consolidated further in 2020.

**Albania**

A first Jean Monnet Dialogue is forecast in 2020 with Albania, if appropriate political conditions are met.

**Montenegro**

In consideration of the evolving political situation in the country, parliamentary support activities can be foreseen.

## 6. Pan-African Parliament

### Lead Member: Assita KANKO

Parliamentary relations are a vital part of the relationship between the European Union and the African Union. Efforts to strengthen the PAP's capacity were reinforced after the 2014 Malabo Protocol, which envisages granting the Parliament a legislative function on the continent. The PAP has thus been reconfirmed as **the only transnational priority parliament, benefiting from DEG's democracy support activities in the 9th legislature.**

In the last legislature more than 100 representatives from the PAP (both parliamentarians and staff) took part in the DEG exchange programmes, sharing a wide range of best practices on topics including the work of parliamentary committees, setting the agenda for plenary, following-up on adopted legislation, overseeing the executive, communicating about parliamentary business, using information technology for a paperless parliament. Taking into account the relatively wide range of democracy support topics and activities already carried out with the PAP, **in the 9th legislature activities would mainly focus on a "Train the Trainers" approach.** This will involve sharing EP best practices and working methods in a more targeted, in-depth and structured way, thereby transferring skills for the PAP to further develop in a more autonomous and sustainable manner.

In 2020 (and the beginning of 2021), the pilot topic - as agreed with the PAP - to be covered under the "Train the Trainers" approach is **"Enhancing the PAP capacities in election observation, conflict prevention and mediation: best practices from the European Parliament"**. This DEG programme - which would ideally take place over the period of one year - could include *inter alia* the following elements:

- )] **launch of the programme**, during the PAP plenary session in spring 2020 - to be organised in cooperation with DPAP - including a one day seminar in Midrand on "Election observation, conflict prevention and mediation";
- )] **carrying out an in-depth training course** in Brussels for a limited number of PAP MPs and key officials on the topic, to be organised in cooperation with the EEAS;
- )] **organisation of two-week Democracy Fellowships** to the EP for PAP senior officials in the "Election Observation and Follow-up Unit", the "Mediation and Dialogue support Unit", and possibly the "Unit for relations with Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific";
- )] **shadowing** of an EP election observation delegation and/or a Jean Monnet Dialogue/Inter-party dialogue;
- )] **joint EP-PAP Young Political Leaders Programme** on conflict prevention, consensus-building and dialogue, to be organised in cooperation with the PAP Youth Caucus;
- )] **carrying out a training event under the Simone Veil programme** for seven or eight key PAP women parliamentarians, which would include a special module on pre-election activities;
- )] **assistance by the EP** in developing a PAP policy strategy in the area of election observation, mediation and conflict prevention. This could include the possible setting-up of a body similar to DEG, a Mediation and Election Observation Unit in the PAP, as well as a handbook with best practices in the relevant areas (Rules of

Procedure of the DEG equivalent body, a Code of Conduct for election observation, a mediation handbook, etc.).

The outcome of the DEG programme would be presented at the PAP plenary session in spring 2021. Should the pilot “train the trainers” programme on “Enhancing the PAP capacities in election observation, conflict prevention and mediation: best practices from the European Parliament” prove successful, other topics developed under the same approach would be selected for the following years.

Additional *ad hoc* democracy support activities could be carried out with the PAP during the course of 2020, focusing primarily on Democracy Fellowships for PAP staff in Brussels/Strasbourg and technical assistance to the PAP (via a couple of EP staff missions to Midrand). The specific thematic areas for these activities would be confirmed during the year.

## II. THEMATIC AREAS

### 1. Pre- and post-election activities

In line with Article 3 of the *"Implementing provisions on democracy support and election observation activities"*, the DEG should develop specific pre-election and post-election/follow-up activities, which would complement the EP's longstanding election observation activities and reinforce the Comprehensive Democracy Support Approach (CDSA) throughout the electoral cycle.

The activities would take the form of **Parliamentary electoral dialogues (PEDs)** where a limited number of MEPs (including the former Chief Observer/Head of EP Observer Delegation and/or DEG Lead Member) discuss in-depth election-related issues with relevant parliamentarians, political leaders and other relevant actors from the partner country.

- Before the elections, the Dialogues should focus on issues surrounding the preparations for the next election, and particularly on inter-party dialogue and improving the conditions for holding the elections (addressing issues such as hate speech, violence, code of conduct for political parties, the importance of accepting credible elections results);
- After the elections, these Dialogues should focus on implementing the recommendations of election observation missions. The EP has a particularly strong comparative advantage in working with parliaments on the implementation of EOM recommendations that involve legal reform. Overall, 90% of EU EOM recommendations call for constitutional, legal or regulatory framework amendments, making host-country parliaments an entry point for follow-up.

The PEDs will be piloted in 2020, with the aim that they will become an important pillar of DEG's work around the electoral cycle during the 9th legislature. Close coordination and cooperation with the EEAS, the EU Delegation on the ground, and other partner organisations will be crucial for the success and effectiveness of the DEG pre- and post-election parliamentary activities. Joint EU activities - where possible - would be particularly welcomed. Specific attention will also be given to the inclusion of civil society and national observers in this dialogue.

In addition to the DEG priority countries/regions in which PEDs could be organised (e.g. see Tunisia and Kosovo), the following countries are proposed - following consultation with the EEAS - for the development of DEG pre- and post-electoral activities.



## **a/ Pre-election activities**

### **Ethiopia**

Since 2018, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has led Ethiopia with an impressive record of initiatives aimed at achieving political and economic reform, including ending political repression, fighting corruption, empowering women and steps to end the 20-year conflict with Eritrea. The European Parliament is following the situation closely, including by sending congratulations to Prime Minister Abiy (2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner) for his peace-making efforts with Eritrea.

The 2020 elections will be a key test in the country's transition, with a particular focus on the need to end past (mal)practices of pre-election political intimidation and violence. A DEG pre-election mission/PED to Ethiopia would give the opportunity to discuss with a wide range of political parties the need to ensure that the electoral process and reform agenda is not undermined by violence and tensions, including those that take place on an ethnic basis. This would be an important political message to prepare the ground for the full deployment of an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM). The pre-election mission could be organised to coincide with the AFET delegation that is planned for April 2019 or - should elections be postponed to later in the year - a separate one could take place.

### **Ivory Coast**

Following the deployment of an EOM to the 2010 general elections in Ivory Coast, and an Election Expert Mission to the 2015 elections, the country is again on the list for possible EOMs in October 2020. Despite the country's strong economic performance, no political progress has been made in overcoming the divides that have twice driven the country into civil war in the last twenty years. All of the old triggers for conflict - frustration around presidential succession, questions of nationality, toxic regional divides, and agitation for generational change - persist in the current political climate. Moreover, the country's growth has not been particularly inclusive.

In this context, a DEG pre-election mission/PED, with a conflict prevention dimension, could be considered in the run-up to the 2020 October elections, also emphasising the need to bolster the independence of the electoral commission and transparency around the democratic process.

### **Lebanon**

Parliamentary elections in Lebanon took place on 6 May 2018, with the presence of an EU EOM. Participation in these elections was low, even if these elections were the first time in nine years that the Lebanon had gone to the polls. This apparent apathy contrasts with the recent nationwide protests in the country demanding systemic change in the political and economic system of Lebanon. The resignation of Prime Minister, Saad Al-Hariri, in late October 2019, after the rejection by protesters of his economic reform agenda, marked an important point in this political crisis. The formation of a new caretaker government is still pending. The nature of this government, technocratic or party-based, is one of the main issues preventing its formation. Whatever the outcome, the resolution of this political crisis will entail structural, political and economic reforms, accompanied by relevant support from international donors. New elections should also not be discounted.

A DEG post-election mission/PED could be considered in the second part of 2020 - jointly with or after the EU follow-up mission to be sent next year - to support possible electoral reform in the country, both politically and technically, in line with the EU EOM recommendations.

### **Zimbabwe**

The 30 July 2018 harmonised elections in Zimbabwe were the first since former president Robert Mugabe stepped down from power after 37 years in office. And - for the first time since 2002 - the EU sent an election observation mission, led by Chief Observer MEP Elmar Brok, to the country. Although political space opened briefly in the run-up to elections, that opening was quickly closed in the aftermath. Despite a few cosmetic changes and claims for a "new dispensation" during President Mnangagwa's time in power, there has been no new path for the country.

Even if Mugabe's legacy continues to live on through the system, there is an openness to engagement on electoral reform and follow-up generally in the Zimbabwean Parliament thanks to the efforts of domestic observers in the country, such as the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN). In this context, the EU will be deploying a follow-up mission to Zimbabwe in 2020, which could be reinforced by a Parliamentary Electoral Dialogue under the leadership of the DEG.

## **c/ Election-related events**

### **Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (DoP)**

The EP and the EEAS would jointly host the 15th annual Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles in November in Brussels, at the European Parliament premises (exact date tbc). The three-day meeting will gather a large number of representatives from the DoP endorsing international and regional organisations, who will share knowledge, experiences and best practices related to international election observation, including on topics including the follow-up to electoral recommendations, the use of technology in elections, and the role of social media. It will also provide a valuable opportunity for the community of international election observers to reaffirm the values and importance of election observation and promote greater synergy between their work, ranging from the policy making at the highest level to the specific activities on the ground.

## 2. Mediation and dialogue, including Young Political Leaders programme

Over the last parliamentary term, there was a growing demand for MEPs to engage in parliamentary mediation, dialogue, and conflict prevention activities, with a particular focus on the EU's Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans. By the end of the parliamentary term, MEPs had demonstrated the added value of "parliamentary mediation" complementing the overall EU approach. This was recognised in successful mediation and dialogue processes and also in a Resolution of the European Parliament adopted in March 2019 on "*Building EU capacity on conflict prevention and mediation*". MEPs acting as mediators or facilitators have also shown their added value in effectively addressing conflicts but also in providing cost-effectiveness and high visibility for the European Parliament. As such, this successful instrument should be further developed and better communicated inside and outside the EU.

Mediation and dialogue are now among the key instruments in DEG's Comprehensive Democracy Support Approach (CDSA). They will thus continue to be offered to all priority countries and, in line with the DEG's Implementing Provisions, to those countries deemed a priority for the European Parliament<sup>2</sup>. The key instruments are:

- ) **Mediators and Facilitators** - based on the successful model of the joint EP/European Commission mediation in North Macedonia (2015-2017), MEPs could be appointed, in line with EP priorities and DEG Implementing provisions (including in situation of urgency), to act as Mediators or Facilitators on behalf of the EP and within an overall or joint EU response to political conflicts and crises;
- ) **Jean Monnet Dialogues for peace and democracy (JMD)**, which will be continued for Ukraine and North Macedonia and expanded in line with DEG priority countries (see relevant priority country activities), throughout the Western Balkans and Neighbourhood. **Inter-Party Dialogues**, using the Jean Monnet Dialogue methodology, will be provided to those countries requiring more immediate mediation support (e.g. the Inter-Party dialogue with Serbia) and for those countries further away from the EU who may not meet the criteria for EU membership (See "Jean Monnet Dialogues and Inter-Party Dialogues" section below for more information on the process);
- ) **Young Political Leaders (YPL) Programme** including emphasising continuity for the well-established platforms Israel/Palestine, Armenia/Azerbaijan and Western Balkans) as well as new formats with priority CDSA countries and regions and innovative thematic issues like climate change and the UNSC Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (See "Young Political Leaders" section for more information);
- ) **Pre-election - Prevention of Election-related Violence (PEV)** will continue to be a focus for roundtable policy dialogue to enhance the EU's ability to mitigate the impact of election-related violence. As well as policy dialogue, this pre-election focus will be an integral part of the **new Parliamentary Electoral Dialogues (PED)** (see relevant section);
- ) **Parliamentary Mediation Training Programme** - for Members of the European Parliament and adapted as mediation and dialogue capacity building for MPs, political parties and key stakeholders in third countries. In addition, mediation and

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<sup>1</sup> European Parliament resolution of 12 March 2019 on building EU capacity on conflict prevention and mediation (2018/2159(INI))

<sup>2</sup> In line with these provisions and notably the Article 2, should an urgent situation emerged in another country, mediation activities could be organised on a short notice.

conflict prevention training will be included in the **new “Train the Trainers” Concept** (see priorities for Pan African Parliament);

) **Regional Parliamentary Dialogue (RPD)** - will continue to provide support to regional parliamentary dialogue initiatives, such as the initiatives between Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia and also in the Western Balkans (see High Level Conference in the Western Balkans);

) **Women and peace building** - within the activities on mediation, is essential to ensure that women are involved and provided with specific capacity building. It is also essential that they are not left behind during the implementation phase. Focusing on women and mediation is a new aspect of mediation activities that the EP could offer and further develop in 2020 (**in line with EP Resolution March 2019**).

## **a/ Jean Monnet Dialogues and Inter-Party Dialogues**

The Jean Monnet Dialogue for Peace and Democracy is an instrument developed by the European Parliament as a soft power tool in the area of parliamentary mediation and dialogue. With the Jean Monnet Dialogue, the European Parliament strengthens the ability of political leaders to develop true inter-party dialogue and to build the consensus necessary for generating a democratic parliamentary culture and trust. The Jean Monnet Dialogue complements traditional capacity-building programmes and contributes to institutional reform processes. It also provides political group leaders with a dialogue platform to seek consensus on national priority policies.

The methodology is inspired by Jean Monnet's working method, implying a pragmatic dialogue to achieve concrete results by consensus, the EP's Jean Monnet Dialogue is not a series of "single issue conferences". It is a process made up of a cycle of preparatory consultations with the political leaders, leading to an *in camera* meeting with concrete outcomes and a follow-up on commitments made during these dialogues.

During the EP 2014-2019 Parliamentary Term, the Jean Monnet Dialogue, designed for a wider use, has been successfully applied in the framework of the EP's cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Sobranie of the Republic of North Macedonia.

New Jean Monnet Dialogues/Inter-party Dialogues will be in line with CDSA priority countries (see the different priority country/region for more details) and ad hoc DEG decisions based on the Implementing Provisions for mediation and JMDs, in line with article 2 of the Implementing Provisions on democracy support and election observation activities.

As regards to Turkey, several democracy support instruments could be put in place in 2020. These could include an Inter-Party Dialogue with Turkish political leaders to discuss serious concerns about the state of parliamentary democracy and democracy in general in the country. The Young Political Leaders Programme could be used to promote dialogue with the next generation of leaders to ensure parliamentary and democratic standards in the country (see dedicated section for more details).

N.B. the situation in Turkey will continue to be followed closely and the democracy support activities with this country will be reassessed if needed.

## **b/ Young Political Leaders programme (YPL)**

**Lead Member: Mr Fabio Massimo CASTALDO, EP Vice-President responsible for Human Rights and Democracy**

The Young Political Leaders (YPL) programme is a flagship initiative of the European Parliament designed to promote dialogue and understanding as a means to contribute to longer-term peace and trust amongst future leaders outside the EU. Requests from institutional partners, especially the EEAS, European Commission and EU Delegations, will be considered on a case-by-case basis and according to available budget.

### **Western Balkans**

See “Western Balkans” section for more information.

### **Eastern Partnership countries**

Further develop the Armenia-Azerbaijan YPL on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, following the developments in the two countries and in the EU approach to the conflict (i.e. new role for DG NEAR, a successor programme for European Partnership for Nagorno-Karabakh). Explore the possibility to develop together with DG NEAR a ‘Bridging the Gap’ regional platform for the EaP countries with a launching event in 2020.

### **MENA region**

Develop further the YPL programme on Israel and Palestine and (re)initiate the YPL programme with Tunisia.

Based on the well-established cooperation with the HRVP’s initiative for the region “Young Med Voices Plus Initiative” explore the possibility to develop a joint YPL event with the EEAS and the Anna Lindh foundation.

### **Africa**

Pan-African-Parliament (PAP): in-line with the priority partnership with the PAP, continue to promote support to the youth parliamentary caucuses as a platform for reaching a wider African audience.

Sudan: Following the recent developments and in response to the request of the EU Delegation (re)initiate the YPL programme for Sudan in 2020.

### **Turkey**

Engaging with the next generation of leaders will be key to ensure parliamentary and democratic standards in Turkey. Therefore, the Young Political Leaders programme frozen in 2016 following the failed *coup* could be resumed. The programme would include issues of common concern, to both young MEPs and young Turkish parliamentarians (as well as other young leaders), such as: the challenges and importance of young people participating in political life; the role of social media and communicating effectively with citizens; defending the rule of law and human rights; developing a culture of peaceful political dialogue and consensus building; cross party cooperation to promote issues of concern to the youth.

## **Youth, Peace and Security agenda**

Organise YPL activities in the framework of the EP's European Youth Event; encourage the involvement of YPL alumni in relevant hearings and in Committees and Delegations activities; explore partnerships with EU institutions and Member States - Presidency, Commission, EEAS, Delegations, Youth events in the framework of the Berlin Process, Eastern Partnership initiatives, etc; follow closely and arrange for the participation of YPL alumni in relevant UN and Regional Organisations activities, as well as in initiatives of key international CSOs.

## **Thematic priorities**

Develop dedicated initiatives on "Youth and Climate Change" and "Women and Mediation" as part of YPL activities.



### 3. Human rights and Sakharov Prize activities

Human rights action adds a key component to overall democracy support efforts led by the DEG and promotes Parliament's human rights agenda and visibility at large. This includes supporting partner parliaments in mainstreaming human rights into legislation and overseeing their implementation; linking civil society as a crucial vector of human rights to parliaments and government authorities; capacity building for agents of democratic change by investing in human rights defenders (including under the Sakharov fellowship programme); empowering women under the Simone Veil programme; and strengthening free and pluralistic media. The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought and the activities of the Sakharov Prize Community of laureates are an integral part of this agenda.

#### a/ Human rights activities

**Lead Member: Maria ARENA, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights (DROI)**

#### **Action empowering agents of democratic change**

- ) The **Simone Veil Programme** helps **empower women parliamentarians** to promote inclusive societies and democratic change. It addresses them in both their professional and their human and individual dimensions. It therefore offers a component of personal development in addition to insights in the spectrum of tools women parliamentarians can activate to trigger progress on gender equality. Five training modules (equality, negotiation and advocacy, leadership, personal well-being and resilience, and pre-elections) can be offered separately or combined. Duration and scope of the modules can be tailored to specific needs. Human rights-oriented training, seminars, workshops or study visits can also be organised for all parliamentarians and staff from partner parliaments in Brussels or Strasbourg;
- ) **Empowering civil society** actors in their interaction with partner parliaments and government authorities. The European Parliament can build on and share its own experience by facilitating events bringing together civil society actors and decision-makers to build trust and identify avenues of cooperation. These events can be organised in and beyond DEG priority countries and regions. Activities empowering civil society could also be offered to Turkey;
- ) Activities strengthening **free and pluralistic media** as a crucial component of democratic systems. In 2020, projects in this area could focus on pre-accession countries;
- ) **Outreach activities to strengthen local human rights debates and campaigns** in priority countries. This activity involves cooperation with partner parliaments, NGOs, EU Delegations or other organisations. Members, Sakharov Prize laureates, finalists, fellows or other relevant personalities embodying universal human rights could participate where appropriate;
- ) **Support for the Members** representing the European Parliament in the governing bodies of the **European Endowment for Democracy**.

## **Action in support of the EP human rights agenda, raising human rights awareness and enhancing the visibility of EP human rights work**

- )] **Support and promotion of ongoing DROI activities** and the work of DROI rapporteurs or other MEPs with a relevant human rights focus;
- )] **Invitation of human rights defenders** to contribute to the EP human rights agenda including through fact-finding, reporting and participation in inter-parliamentary meetings, delegation meetings, conferences or other relevant meetings in Brussels, Strasbourg or elsewhere;
- )] **Participation in film events and debates**, including the annual One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival and the School on Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy, Venice. Members, Sakharov Prize laureates, finalists, fellows or other relevant personalities could be invited where appropriate.

### **b/ Sakharov Prize activities**

#### **Lead Member: Heidi HAUTALA, EP Vice-President responsible for the Sakharov Prize and the Sakharov network and for Human Rights and Democracy**

In 2008, a network was launched as a platform for the human rights activities of the Sakharov Prize laureates and MEPs. It aims at building a culture of human rights, raising awareness on human rights issues in and outside the EU, and supporting human rights defenders around the world through common action. Since 2020, the network features under the name **Sakharov Prize Community**. It is co-chaired by the President of the European Parliament and the most recent laureate. Activities could include:

- )] **Monitoring and support of Sakharov Prize laureates who are at risk or in difficult situations via silent diplomacy and/or public action.** Support action is coordinated with the President, the Vice-President responsible for the Sakharov Prize Community, relevant committees and delegations. Monitoring and supporting activities involve close cooperation with the EEAS and the European Commission and can also extend to Sakharov finalists and fellows;
- )] **Participation of laureates, finalists or fellows in committee, delegation or other relevant meetings, including:**
  - Participation of 2017 Sakharov Prize laureate Lorent Saleh and Sakharov fellows in the European Youth Event (EYE), Strasbourg, 29-30 May 2020;
- )] **Events enhancing the visibility of the Sakharov Prize.** Participation of laureates, finalists, fellows or other relevant personalities in events promoting the spirit of the Sakharov Prize, increasing public awareness of human rights and EP engagement. These events can be organised in EU Member States in cooperation with the EP Liaison Offices or outside the EU together with international partners or in the framework of international fora;
- )] **Meetings of laureates with EP delegations on mission, including Election Observation Missions** to be set up in liaison with the concerned bodies according to 2020 programme of committee and delegation visits and list of priorities for EOM;
- )] **Support human rights projects and advocacy initiatives of individual laureates and cooperation among laureates in line with the EP human rights agenda, including:**
  - Promotion of the film SEMA, written and acted by survivors of sexual violence in Congo including its placement at film festivals and the

organisation of debates on sexual violence against women. DEG supported the production of the film in 2019 in cooperation with the Dr Denis Mukwege Foundation. From 2020 onwards, the film can serve as an awareness-raising tool on violence against women;

- Promotion of 2017 Sakharov Prize laureate Lorent Saleh's theatre performance "White torture: underground poetry" as an awareness-raising tool on modern forms of torture inflicted on prisoners of conscience. Several performances could be organised including in Brussels, Strasbourg, Milan, Madrid, and Berlin;

) **Sakharov Traineeship** - a special section of Parliament's Schuman traineeship initiated by the Sakharov Prize Community. Organised twice a year, it allows young human rights professionals from the EU and third countries to gain practical insight in Parliament's human rights policies;

) **Sakharov fellowship for human rights defenders** - This annual capacity-building programme initiated by the Sakharov Prize Community grows an alumni network intertwined with EP human rights activities. The Lead Member proposes to the EP President and the DEG a selection of up to 14 human rights defenders per year, including candidates recommended by EU Delegations and Sakharov Prize laureates.

- In 2020, the fellows follow a **human rights training event** at the European Parliament (23 - 27 March), with a particular focus on EU human rights policies and instruments, Parliament's role in human rights, and practical aspects of human rights defenders' work including advocacy. Together with international students, they take complementary training in a **human rights school** at the Global Campus in Venice (28 March - 4 April). Beyond the training, fellows are encouraged to build strong links with the local EU Delegations to ensure continuous support for their human rights work.

- **Stay-in-touch programme, follow-up action and events:** after the training, the EP may offer the fellows opportunities to act as multipliers and spread the values of the Sakharov Prize; it may draw on fellows' expertise to nourish parliamentary work on human rights; and it may support their proposals for action and events related to their human rights engagement.

) **Sakharov week 2020** - The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is an annual prize the European Parliament awards to honour individuals or organisations for their efforts on behalf of human rights. The Prize was established in 1988 and is awarded by the EP President at the December plenary session in Strasbourg. Around the award ceremony, a comprehensive programme of meetings, interviews and public events is organised for the laureates or their representatives and the finalists, including follow-up events to promote the Sakharov Prize in EU Member States.

## LIST OF DEG MEMBERS AND LEAD MEMBERS

## DEG Composition

Co-Chairs :

Mr David McALLISTER	Chair AFET, EPP
Mr Tomas TOBÉ	Chair DEVE, EPP

Members :

Mr Michael GAHLER	EPP
Mr György HÖLVÉNYI	EPP
Ms Kati PIRI	S&D
Ms Isabel SANTOS	S&D
Ms Inma RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO	Chair CDC, S&D
Ms Izaskun BILBAO BARANDICA	RENEW
Mr Urmas PAET	RENEW
Ms Viola VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL	Greens/EFA
Mr Thierry MARIANI	ID
Ms Anna FOTYGA	ECR
Ms Marisa MATIAS	GUE/NGL

Ex-officio Members (without voting rights):

Ms Maria ARENA	Chair DROI, S&D
Ms Heidi HAUTALA	Vice-President responsible for the Sakharov network and for Human Rights and Democracy, Greens/EFA
Mr Fabio CASTALDO	Vice-President responsible for Human Rights and Democracy, NI

<b>DEG lead Members</b>
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Country / Region	Lead Member	Political Group
Ukraine	Mr Michael GAHLER	EPP
Georgia	Ms Viola VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL	Greens/EFA
Moldova	Mr Dragoş TUDORACHE	RENEW
Tunisia	Mr Emmanuel MAUREL	GUE/NGL
Pan-African Parliament	Ms Assita KANKO	ECR
Western Balkans	Mr Vladimír BILČÍK	EPP
	Ms Tanja FAJON	S&D
Young Political Leaders	Mr Fabio Massimo CASTALDO	EP Vice-President
Sakharov network	Ms Heidi HAUTALA	EP Vice-President
Human rights and civil society activities (including Simone Veil Programme)	Ms Maria ARENA	DROI Chair

**NB!** For all activities concerning **Turkey** - as foreseen in the 2020 DEG Annual Work Programme - **Ms Kati Piri (S&D group)** will have a coordinating role, taking also into consideration an active role of Members from the other political groups.

## ANNEX II

### 2020 BUDGET BREAKDOWN FOR EP DEMOCRACY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

**TOTAL ALLOCATION EUR 1,335,000**

UNIT	EUR	PROGRAMMES
PAC/ELEC	415,000	CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND PRE- AND POST-ELECTION ACTIVITIES
PAC	275,000	CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN PRE-ACCESSION COUNTRIES
MED	345,000	MEDIATION SUPPORT
		YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS
HRAC	300,000	SAKHAROV PRIZE
		SAKHAROV NETWORK ACTIVITIES
		HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIONS
	<b>1,335,000</b>	

UNITS	Comprehensive Democracy Support Approach activities
<b>ELEC: ELECTION OBSERVATION AND FOLLOW-UP</b>	Pre- and post-election activities and events
<b>PAC: PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	Capacity building activities in priority countries, including pre-accession countries
<b>MED: MEDIATION AND DIALOGUE SUPPORT</b>	Mediation activities; Jean Monnet Dialogues; Young Political Leaders; conflict prevention
<b>HRAC: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIONS</b>	Targeted human rights activities in priority countries and Sakharov-related activities

## ANNEX III

### LIST OF POSSIBLE DEG EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES IN 2020<sup>3</sup>

Priority country/region	Potential date	Location	External activity
<b>UKRAINE</b>	March	Kiev	Fact finding mission by Lead Member, combined with preparatory mission for the 8th Jean Monnet Dialogue
	March	Bazoches	8th Jean Monnet Dialogue
	May	Kiev	Preparatory mission for the 9th Jean Monnet Dialogue
	June	Bazoches	9th Jean Monnet Dialogue
	October	Kiev	Preparatory mission for the 10th Jean Monnet Dialogue
	November	Bazoches	10th Jean Monnet Dialogue
<b>GEORGIA</b>	February	Tbilisi	Fact finding mission by Lead Member
	May	Tbilisi	Preparatory mission for a first Jean Monnet Dialogue
	June	Bazoches	First Jean Monnet Dialogue
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	March	Chisinau	Fact finding mission by Lead Member
	April	Chisinau	Preparatory mission for a first Jean Monnet Dialogue
	May	Chisinau	Seminar on Implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement
	July	Bazoches	First Jean Monnet Dialogue
	October/ November	Chisinau	Workshop on “Enhancing the relationship between the Parliament and the civil society”

<sup>3</sup> To be authorised by the Conference of Presidents on a case-by-case basis, upon specific DEG request.

<b>TUNISIA</b>	26-28 February	Tunis and Kef	Fact finding mission by Lead Member, combined with 1st regional workshop on the implementation of law 58/2017 on the eradication of violence against women - enabling victims' access to justice
	April	Tunis	National conference on the implementation of law 58/2017 on the eradication of violence against women - enabling victims' access to justice
	July	Tunis	Preparatory mission for a first Jean Monnet/Inter-Party Dialogue
	September	Tunis	First Jean Monnet/Inter-Party Dialogue
	September/ October	Tunis	Workshop on social inclusion and gender equality as means to fight radicalisation
	25 November	Tunis	Follow-up conference on the implementation of law 58/2017 on the eradication of violence against women - enabling victims' access to justice
	November/ December	Tunis	DEG post-election mission/ parliamentary electoral dialogue (PED)
<b>PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT</b>	7-9 May	Midrand (South Africa)	Launch of the "Train the trainers" programme: Address of the PAP Plenary and Seminar on "Election observation, conflict prevention and mediation"
<b>WESTERN BALKANS PRIORITY REGION</b>			
<b>A) North Macedonia</b>	June	Skopje	Preparatory mission for the next Jean Monnet Dialogue
	October	Skopje	Jean Monnet Dialogue
<b>B) Serbia</b>	May/June	Belgrade	Preparatory mission for the next Jean Monnet/Inter-Party Dialogue
	June/July	Belgrade	Jean Monnet/Inter-Party Dialogue
	November/ December	Belgrade	Jean Monnet/Inter-Party Dialogue
<b>C) Albania</b>	2nd half 2020	Tirana	Preparatory mission for a first Jean Monnet Dialogue
	2nd half 2020	Tirana	Jean Monnet Dialogue



<b>D) Kosovo</b>	March/April	Pristina	Seminar/Parliamentary Electoral Dialogue (PED) on "Integrity of the electoral process"
<b>E) Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	April	Sarajevo	"Revitalising democracy" programme: Convention for Democracy
	October	Sarajevo	"Revitalising democracy" programme: Follow-up event to the Convention for democracy
<b>F) Regional activities</b>	June	Tirana (Albania)	Regional Conference on State Capture
	October	Podgorica (Montenegro)	Regional Conference on Electoral Rules
	November	Belgrade (Serbia)	Regional Conference on Media Freedom
	2nd half 2020	Pristina (Kosovo)	Regional Conference on Environmental Challenges
	December	North Macedonia (Skopje)	Regional Conference on Tackling "Brain Drain"
<b>Other activities</b>	<b>Potential date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>External activity</b>
<b>PRE- AND POST-ELECTION</b>	April	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	DEG pre-election mission/parliamentary electoral dialogue (PED), possibly jointly with AFET delegation to Ethiopia
	June/July	Abidjan, Ivory Coast	DEG pre-election mission/parliamentary electoral dialogue (PED)
	October/November	Beirut, Lebanon	DEG post-election mission/parliamentary electoral dialogue (PED)
	October/November	Harare, Zimbabwe	DEG post-election mission/parliamentary electoral dialogue (PED)
<b>Turkey<sup>4</sup></b>	March/April	Ankara	Coordination/Prep mission Inter-Party Dialogue/support to Civil Society
	May/June	Ankara	1st Inter-Party Dialogue

<sup>4</sup> Whilst Turkey is not a priority country, *ad hoc* activities could be organised.