

“The Final Three for Human Rights” Online Session with the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights Candidates

17 January 2024, 2pm – 3.30pm CET

On 23 January 2024, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) will elect the new Commissioner for Human Rights, who will be taking office on 1 April.

Following up to the October webinar on particularities of the elections of the Commissioner and of the Secretary General, [CURE – Campaign to Uphold Rights in Europe](#) – in cooperation with the [Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe](#) – invites you to join this online session with the three final candidates for the post of the Commissioner:

Meglana Kuneva, Ambassador of the European Union to the Council of Europe (2018-2022)

Manfred Nowak, UN Expert, Secretary General at the Global Campus of Human Rights

Michael O’Flaherty, Director at FRA – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2015-2023)

Moderator:

Ioulietta Bisiouli, Director at the European Implementation Network

This is the culmination of the process initiated ahead of the meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies on 21-23 November 2023, where the short list of three candidates was decided. Already at that stage, we shared our considerations regarding the mandate of the Commissioner with the Permanent Representations of the CoE member states in Strasbourg.

Later, when the shortlist was announced, an update of this document was sent to the members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, who conducted interviews with all three candidates on 1 December. See the related [progress report](#) on the recommendation of the Committee to the full Parliamentary Assembly.

Now it is time for civil society to ask the candidates our questions, such as:

- What are the most important human rights problems Europe is currently facing? How would you stimulate an effective role of the Council of Europe in addressing these challenges? What would your own contribution be vis-à-vis these problems?
- How would you engage with member states neglecting or refusing to implement your or other CoE bodies’ recommendations, or ECtHR judgements? What would be your preferred approach – outspoken or discreet diplomacy?
- If elected, what communication strategy would you adopt to increase the mandate’s visibility and impact?

and others.

Join us online on **17 January 2024, 2pm–3.30pm CET**. The registration is open **until 15 January 2024** [here](#). Should you have any questions or considerations, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@cure-campaign.org.