

N°1 NOVEMBER- DESEMBER 2023

# AMICALEMENT VÔTRE

THE BIMESTERIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AMICALE  
OF THE STAFF OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



# CONTENT

**3**

LIECHTENSTEIN  
TAKES OVER THE  
PRESIDENCY

**4**

ARMENIAN  
CHARITY SALE

**5**

CURRENT NEWS

**10**

COMING EVENTS

**19**

AMICALE  
LANGUAGE  
COURSES

# LIECHTENSTEIN TAKES OVER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

On 15 November, Liechtenstein took over from Latvia as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers for the next six months. Its priorities revolve around the motto "United by our values, towards a future that meets the needs of all".

Numerous cultural events will be organized between January and April 2024, in which the Amicale will be associated. The end of Liechtenstein's presidency will be marked by the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, to which the Association will make its contribution.

***[Press here to learn more](#)***

# THANK YOU FOR THE HELP!



With the support of the Amicale, the charity sales organized on the 5th and 12th of October collected over 10,000 euros to aid the refugees who sought safety in Armenia in September 2023.

An additional 2,000 euros were contributed by the Amicale.

The total sum of **12,000 euros** was transferred to the **AYO NGO** in **Armenia**, which helps these refugees by providing essential services, clothing, and other basic necessities.

The Amicale and our Armenian colleagues who coordinated the charity sale would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this effort.



# THE AMICALE ARTS CLUB

**October – November 2023**

The rich and colourful selection of artworks on display at the Agora and the Palais' galleries has certainly not escaped your attention.



As a tribute to "Pink October", the October selection hosted four talented female artists in the Palais and Agora:

**"Enfance"**, the ceramic miniatures of Manuella Martins (France) inspired by childhood were hosted in the showcases space of the Palais, while two remarkable painting exhibitions were in the main gallery:

**"Eole"**, by our member and friend Catherine de Solère (France), an exhibition inspired in particular by the themes of Time and Wind

and

**"Displaced"**, by Tatjana Balac (North Macedonia) which dealt with the motifs of the refugee and migrant crisis.

**"Part"**, a series of love-inspired acryl on canvas paintings by Svetlana Ninkovic (Serbia) was on display in the Agora.



These exhibitions were followed in November by new ones, currently on display.

**"YGITHA"** is a joint exhibition by a couple of artists inspired by a similar vision but using different mediums: you can admire the precious stones jewellery by **Arvydas Rancevas** (Lithuania) in the showcase space of the Palais until the end of December, while the expressive paintings inspired by mythology by **Jurgita Ranceviene** are sharing the gallery space of the Palais until the end of November with **"Travel, pictures"**, landscapes oil paintings by Stojan Milanov (Serbia).



**"Mediterranean"**, a series of abstract watercolour paintings by Dragan Karadzic (Montenegro) are on display in the Agora gallery until the end of November, and mark the first Arts club exhibition of a Montenegrin artist.



Information about the Arts Club events is regularly available on the Amicale portal as well as on the "Council of Europe Arts Club" page on Facebook. Don't hesitate to contact or join the club ([amicale.artsclub@gmail.com](mailto:amicale.artsclub@gmail.com)) to know more about sponsoring an artist or coordinating new exhibitions!

# POETRY EVENING WITH THE AMICALE



The Amicale had the great pleasure of sponsoring a poetry evening on the 15 November at the FEC in Strasbourg, with the participation of:

- **Bernard Fournier**, winner of the Louise Labé 2023 prize for his "Dits de la pierre".
- **Danièle Corre** for "Ces ombres qui nous peuplent".
- **Spyros Tsovilis**, our former colleague, for his "Nychtoparotites" and "La Ronde de Minotaure" all published by La Feuille de thé.

In this context, the Amicale is delighted to announce that the Verlaine poetry prize for 2023 has been awarded to our former colleague Guy Michel Brandtner (alias Arnaldo Feuer), for his latest collection, "de part et d'autre", published by L'Herbe qui tremble.

The Amicale has its very own Poetry Club, so if you are interested in attending the biweekly meetings or if you have any related questions, please contact [valentyna.kryvenkova@coe.int](mailto:valentyna.kryvenkova@coe.int)

## EUROPA-PARK IN DECEMBER!

The Amicale trip to Europa-Park is scheduled to take place between Saturday 2 and Sunday 17 December 2023. The Amicale is pleased to inform that it will cover the Europa-Park entrance fee for the children (aged between 4 and 14 years old) for CoE staff. This year the Amicale has had 333 inscriptions with requests for around 580 free vouchers and 840 adult tickets.

The Amicale is furthermore very pleased to inform its members that the children at the Ukrainian school and their mothers will again be invited to join members and their children at Europa-Park.

**We hope everyone has a great time!**



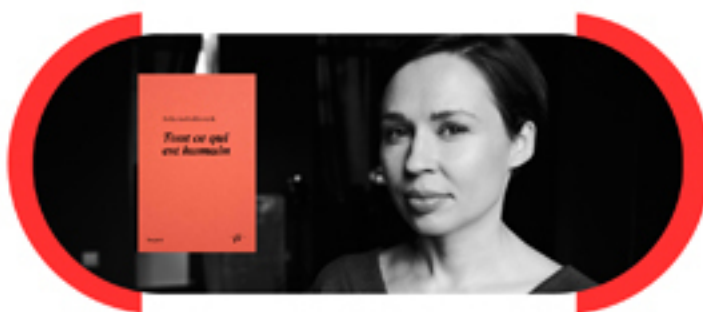
# LITERARY MEETING WITH SOFIA ANDRUKHOVYCH

*On the 15 October, the Amicale sponsored a literary meeting with the Ukrainian writer Sofia Andrukhovych at the BNU, where she discussed her new book.*

## **How can a semblance of order and humanity be restored to a reality shattered by war?**

In this poignant diary of the first year of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Sofia Andrukhovych attempts to name and express that which has no name, that which lies far beyond human perception: that which is frightening to talk about, that which slips away. The author looks for links between fragments of reality torn apart by war and violence, and a desire to sketch out and observe the phenomena and reactions of human consciousness in the face of traumatic events. We are thus confronted with a multitude of encounters and characters from stories and experiences, incomprehensible combinations, drama and tragedy, comic or ridiculous manifestations, empathy and tenderness. In these seemingly inhuman circumstances, all that is human manifests itself more deeply and fully.

détours  
**bi** bliothèques  
déales



**Sofia Andrukhovych**  
Lancement du livre événement  
*Tout ce qui est humain (Bayard)*

**Dimanche 15 octobre, 16H**  
**BNU**



Sofia Andrukhovych will be in the selection of the 3rd edition of the Amicale's European prize for love novels (2024-2025) with her first novel "Felix Austria".

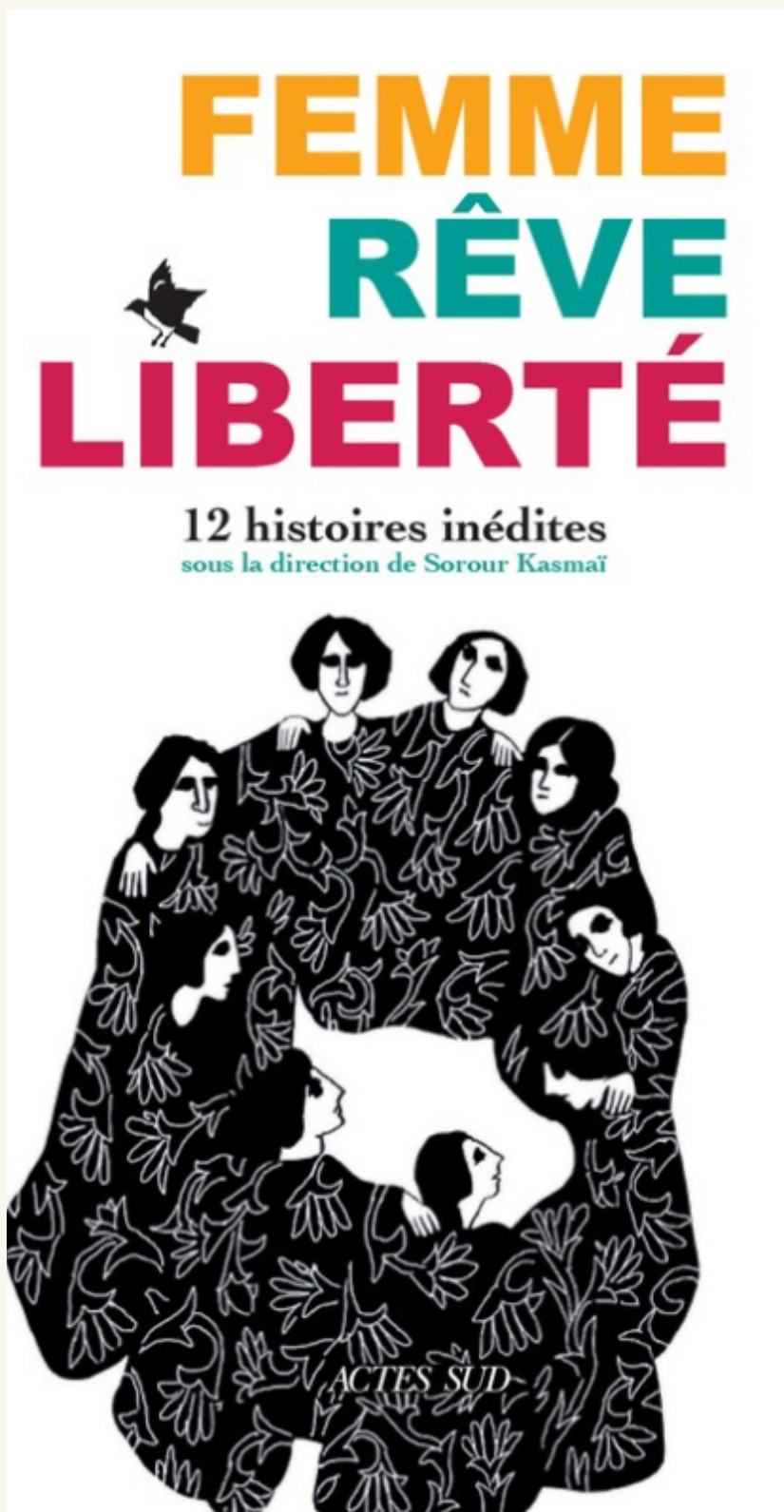


# " FEMME, RÊVE, LIBERTÉ ": WHAT FATE FOR IRANIAN WOMEN ONE YEAR AFTER THE MURDER OF MAHSA AMINI?

On the 16th of October, the Amicale and the Kléber bookshop were honored to welcome **Sorour Kasmaï**, coordinator of the collective work "Woman, dream, freedom", and **Bahiyyih Nakhjavani**, one of the authors, to discuss the situation of women in Iran, the repression to which they are subjected, and their dreams of freedom.

The book is a transformative collection of stories that continue to shed light on the critical situation for women in Iran today, and looks at the reasons for the anger that engulfed the country since September 16, 2022, the day the young Mahsa Jina Amini succumbed to the beatings of the morality police.

[Read more here](#)



# COMING EVENTS

## THE AMICALE FEMMES

Invitation to the conference **“Women writers in Bulgarian literature of the 20th-21st century”** presented by Professor Miryana Yanakieva, from the University of Strasbourg on **17 November from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Palais de l’Europe, room 9.**

The event is organized by the Women's Association of the Council of Europe and the European Women's Library in partnership with Strasbourg, UNESCO World Book Capital 2024.

Read more and register [here](#).

**17 NOVEMBER**

The poster features a central illustration of a woman's profile in silhouette, with her hand raised. Below her, there is an open book, a brown hat with a red band and a flower, and several red petals. The background is a light beige color with a subtle pattern.

**Les femmes écrivaines  
dans la littérature bulgare  
de XX-XXI siècle**

**Miryana Yanakieva, Université de Strasbourg**

le 17 novembre  
de 17h à 19h  
**Conseil de l'Europe**

Inscription obligatoire :  
[amicalefemmes.coe@gmail.com](mailto:amicalefemmes.coe@gmail.com)

Un événement organisé par la Bibliothèque Européenne des Femmes  
et l'Amicale Femmes du Conseil de l'Europe

Miryana Yanakieva est maître de conférences HDR à l'Institut de littérature et de l'Académie bulgare des sciences. Depuis 2020, elle enseigne la littérature et la civilisation bulgares au Département d'études slaves de l'Université de Strasbourg.

Logos at the bottom: Bibliothèque Européenne des Femmes, Institut de littérature et de l'Académie bulgare des sciences, amicale, and Council of Europe.

Under the patronage of the **Permanent Representation of Ireland to the Council of Europe**, Tagora presents

## “WHOSE RIGHT?”

two plays dealing with the rights of the individual.

### **The Merchant – D'r Handler, adapted from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice, directed by Louise Palmer**

D'r Handler takes place in Strasbourg in the late 1880s. It tells the tale of a merchant, Antoine, who borrows three thousand marks from the usurer, Shylock, to fund a project for his friend Benoît. When his ships fail to come in and he cannot repay the debt, Antoine's life is in danger. Who can save him?

FRIDAY 24/11 @ 20:30

SUNDAY 26/11 @ 17:00

TUESDAY 28/11 @ 20:30

THURSDAY 30/11 @ 20:30

SATURDAY 2/12 @ 17:00



SATURDAY 25/11 @ 17:00

WEDNESDAY 29/11 @ 20:30

FRIDAY 1/12 @ 20:30

SUNDAY 3/12 @ 17:00

 **THE CUBE NOIR THEATRE, CREP**

### **Molly Sweeney by Brian Friel, directed by Julia Whitham**

Molly Sweeney, blind since infancy, has created a world in her own mind which gives her pleasure and great fulfilment. After she is persuaded by her husband and her surgeon to undergo a risky operation, her sight is only partially restored. In this new frightening environment, she grieves for her old interior world which has been lost forever. Through a series of monologues, Molly Sweeney explores the difference between seeing and understanding in a deeply moving meditation on hope, change and despair.

[BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE](#)

# AMICALE CHRISTMAS MARKET



This year, as in the past, the Amicale is pleased to organize its traditional **Christmas market**. The market will be held over three weeks, in the three main Council of Europe buildings, where you are invited to come, explore, and celebrate the holiday spirit.

## **When?**

From Monday the **27. November** to Friday the **15. December**, every day from 12.00 to 14.30.

From 27 November to 1 December in the Agora building.

From 4 to 8 December in the European Court of Human Rights.

From 11 to 15 December in the Palais.

Stay tuned for more information.



The Amicale du Personnel at the  
Council of Europe has the great honor  
of inviting you to the

# Charity Market for Ukraine

We warmly welcome you to join us in discovering traditional cakes, decorations, books, and national souvenirs from all over the world, with a choir performance and a tombola\* with dozens of prizes.

*Where?*

**Ground Floor in the Palais de l'Europe**

*When?*

**1. December at 11:00-15:00**



All the funds raised during the event will be donated to the Superhumans Center in Ukraine that provides specialized care to Ukrainians wounded by the war.



\*You have to be present or represented at 13:30 o'clock to win the  
Tombola prizes.

# Building Peace in Europe, Today?

28 NOVEMBER

The Permanent Mission of the Holy See invites staff members to attend a round table on the theme of "**Building Peace in Europe, Today?**", on 28 November at 8 pm, at the Foyer de l'étudiant catholique (FEC), place Sainte Etienne in Strasbourg.

Three personalities will discuss this subject:

- **Monsignor Antoine Hérouard**, Archbishop of Dijon and Vice-President of the Commission of Episcopates of the European Community.
- **Constantin Sigov**, Ukrainian philosopher.
- **Christos Giakoumopoulos**, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law at the Council of Europe.

The exchange will be introduced and moderated by researcher François Mabile, a specialist in the contemporary history of the Church.

[Read more about the event the  
Intranet here!](#)



# THE PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

4 DECEMBER

The Psychology Club invites you to **'The Influence of Cultural Complexes on Relationships'** on the **4th of December 2023** at **12:30-14:00** in the Press Room of the European Court of Human Rights. It will be followed by a **workshop** on cultural complexes to share personal experiences in Agora training room A at **17:00-19:00**.

The lecture and the workshop will be delivered by **Deborah Egger**, President of the International School of Analytical Psychology (ISAP), Zurich and Ursula Ulmer (Jungian Analyst, ISAP).

The conference is open to all, and to register for the workshop contact [aygen.becquart@coe.int](mailto:aygen.becquart@coe.int)

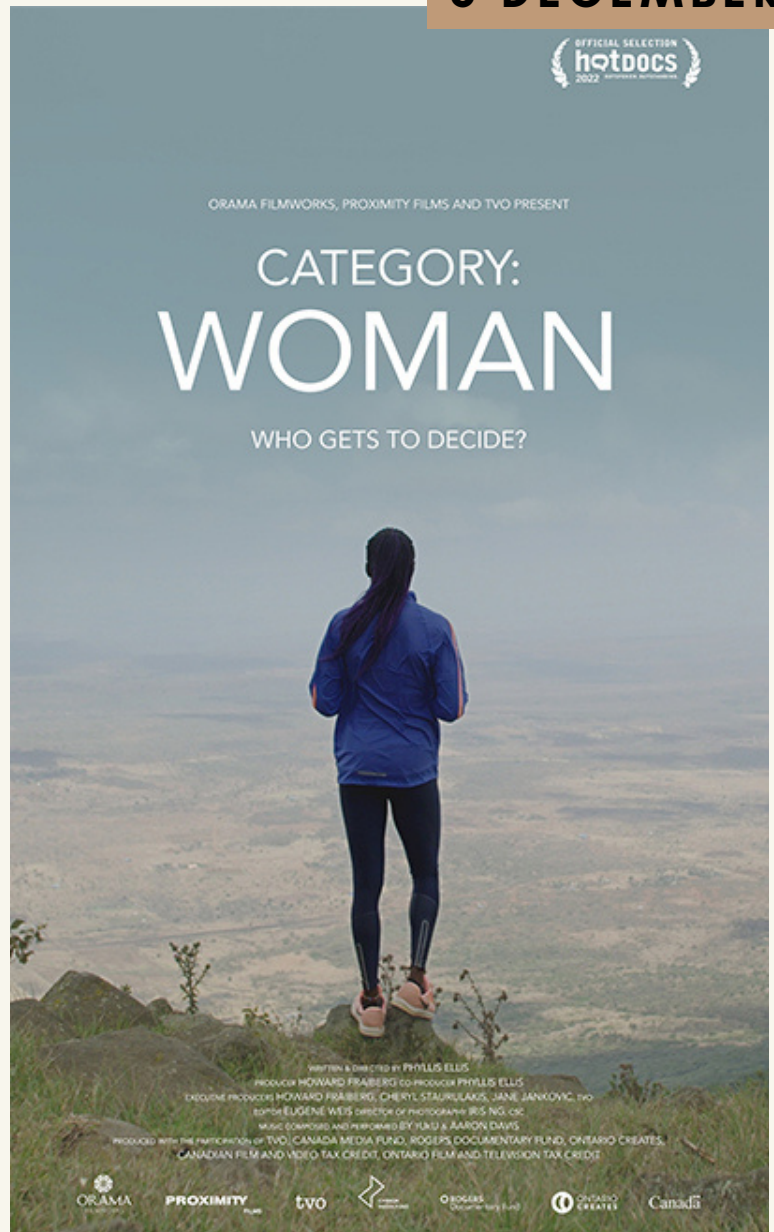
# THE AMICALE FILM CLUB

presents

8 DECEMBER

## CATEGORY: WOMAN

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (now World Athletics) ruled that certain female athletes must medically alter their healthy bodies in order to compete. Their naturally high androgen levels, deemed a performance advantage. "Category: Woman" focuses on four athletes, from the Global South forced out of competition by these regulations, the devastation to their bodies, and lives but equally arresting their passion for sport is further emboldened by their conviction to stand up for their human rights. Following up on her award-winning film "Toxic Beauty", Phyllis Ellis exposes an industry controlled by men putting women's lives at risk while this policing of women's bodies in sport remains, in a more nefarious way, under the guise of fair play.



The Amicale Film Club will be screening the documentary **"Category: Woman"** on **Friday 8 December** in **Palais de l'Europe - Projection Room - 12:15 to 2pm**. The Canadian director and producer of the documentary Phyllis Ellis, will be present, alongside Payoshni Mitra, an activist for the rights of athletes.

The screening of the movie (in English only) will be followed by a short **Q&A** session moderated by Francine H. Raveney, the EPAS Deputy Executive Secretary (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport), in presence of Evgenia Giakoumopoulou, Head of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) at the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity.





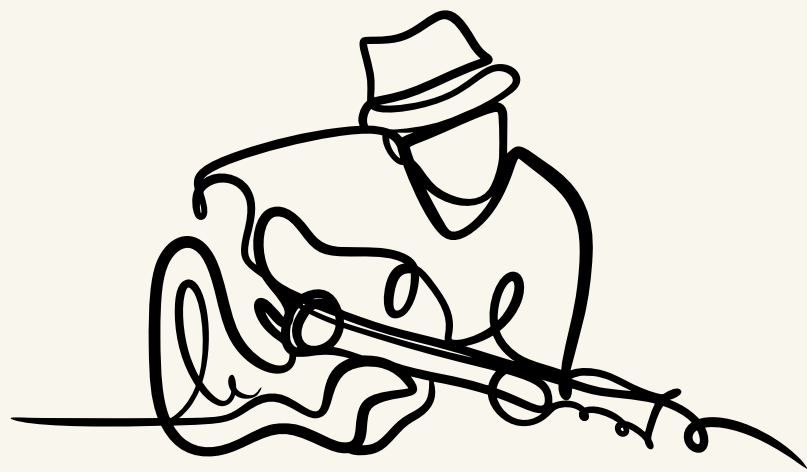
15 DECEMBER

The Amicale has the pleasure of  
inviting you to our

# CONCERT FOR PEACE

On 15 December, at lunch time, the 12 stars band will perform a live concert with a selection of songs in French, English and other languages calling for peace, as a message of hope in the current tragic circumstances.

This will be the last event organized by the Amicale in the year 2023. It will serve as a closing event for the Amicale Christmas Market, located at the main hall of the Palais. Enjoy and support!



# THE AMICALE LANGUAGE COURSES

## FRENCH SIGN LANGUAGE COURSE



The French Sign Language (LSF) section resumed its activities in October after 3 years. LSF courses are aimed at everyone and are taught by Albert Tabaot, a deaf teacher.

Currently, the only class offered is the “advanced” level course and we meet every Thursday from 12:30 to 13:30 at the Palais. A “beginners” course can be created if people are interested in this fabulous opportunity.

The price is €60 per quarter (+ additional cost due to membership of the Amicale).

**For Contact and registration:**  
**[elisabeth.hatterer@coe.int](mailto:elisabeth.hatterer@coe.int)**

## ARABIC COURSE

Arabic classes have started again this fall, with two different levels on offer. **The Beginner Class 2** (one year study and knowledge of the alphabet) is on Thursdays from 12:30 to 13:45 at the Palais.

**The Advanced Class** is on Fridays from 12:30 to 13:45 at the Palais.

Price: 130€ for a term, due in October, January and April.

**For practical details and registration, contact:**  
**[nathalie.costes@coe.int](mailto:nathalie.costes@coe.int)**



## SPANISH COURSE



Spanish courses are offered in two different levels, to enable you to express yourself and learn about different aspects of Spanish culture, life and current affairs. **False beginner level (A2)** is on Fridays from 12:10 to 13:10, and **Intermediate level (B1)** is on Fridays from 13:15 to 14:15, both in the Palais. Course price is (minimum of 5 participants) 144 € per semester.

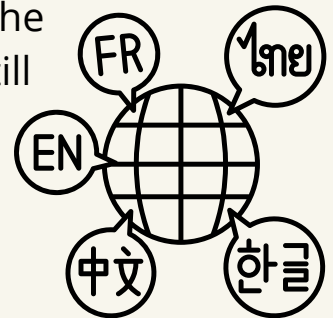
**For more information and contact:**  
[anatejadaf@gmail.com](mailto:anatejadaf@gmail.com)

## PERSIAN COURSE

This semester the Amicale is also offering **Beginner Level** Persian language and culture classes every Fridays from 12:30 to 14:00 in room 1093 (Palais, 1st 2nd floor). The course price is 150 € per semester, and there are still available spots.

Come and join us!

**For practical details and registration, contact:**  
[anna.regard@coe.int](mailto:anna.regard@coe.int)



## TURKISH COURSE

Turkish language classes are held by Deniz Törel Esnault, a Turkish language teacher. There are four levels: **Beginner level, False Beginner level, Intermediate level** and **Advanced level**. Are you not sure which level suits you the best to subscribe? Get in touch with the professor, Deniz, for an evaluation! Price: 165€ for 10 sessions of 1 and a half hours.



**For more information about the courses, contact**  
[sandra.ferreira@coe.int](mailto:sandra.ferreira@coe.int) or contact the teacher directly at  
[deniz.esnault@yahoo.com](mailto:deniz.esnault@yahoo.com)



## COMING SOON - ITALIAN COURSE

The Italian Language and Culture Section wishes to launch a new course for beginners and/or advanced, starting in January 2024. If you are interested, please send an email of interest to Amicale [Amicale@coe.int](mailto:Amicale@coe.int) and [marie-rose.prevost@coe.int](mailto:marie-rose.prevost@coe.int), indicating your level.

If the number of registrations are sufficient, a course will be set up. The conditions will be communicated later.

## COMING SOON - JAPANESE COURSE

Ryuji TAKANO proposes Japanese lessons at the Amicale du Conseil de l'Europe for all levels.

From January 2024, there will be courses aimed at **Beginners** and **"False beginners"**. If you want to discover or resume learning the Japanese language, take this opportunity! Group lessons will take place at the Palais de l'Europe at Wednesdays during lunch break, and for private lessons, the places will be agreed upon.

The price will be 20 euros for 90 minutes (group lessons) and 30 euros/hr (private lessons).

### For more information and contact:

Teacher: [takano@traduction22@gmail.com](mailto:takano@traduction22@gmail.com)

Section president: [marie-rose.prevost@coe.int](mailto:marie-rose.prevost@coe.int).





Front page and last page are taken by Candice Imbert on the 15 November 2023 as Liechtenstein takes over the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

