



SECRETARIAT

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7 October 2013

To the members of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 1, 2 and 3 October 2013

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Strasbourg, with Ms Anne-Mari Virolainen (Finland, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

- on Tuesday, 1 October 2013 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **Launching of the guide for parliamentarians on visiting immigration detention centres:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Mr Jean-Pierre Restellini, member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), and
 - Mr Mark Thomson, Secretary General of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT);
 - **Effective and fair returns of irregular migrants and failed asylum seekers** (Rapporteur: Ms Anne-Mari Virolainen, Finland, EPP/CD): agreed a change of title to “Monitoring the return of irregular migrants and failed asylum seekers by land, sea and air”, approved a report and adopted unanimously a draft recommendation;
 - **2nd training for Parliamentarians on visiting places of detention for irregular migrants and asylum seekers (Zurich, 16-17 October 2013):** heard information on the training from the Secretariat and heard a statement from the Chair on the visit to the Mesnil-Amelot detention centre, on 10 September 2013;
 - **Migrants and refugees and the fight against AIDS** (Rapporteur: Ms Doris Fiala, Switzerland, ALDE): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
 - **Missing persons from Europe’s conflicts: the long road to finding humanitarian answers** (Rapporteur: Mr Jim Sheridan, United Kingdom, SOC): considered and approved amendments proposed by the Rapporteur on behalf of the Committee;
 - **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 27-29 November 2013:** heard information from the Secretariat;
- on Wednesday, 2 October 2013 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **Election:** following the resignation of Ms Anette Hübinger (Germany, EPP/CD), elected Mr Bernard Fournier (France, EPP/CD) by acclamation as Third Vice Chair of the Committee;

- **Unaccompanied migrant children: what rights at 18?** (Rapporteur: Ms Mailis Reps, Estonia, ALDE): held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Mr Thierno Diallo, a young migrant, and
 - Mr Sergio Belfor, Deputy Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe;
- **The arrival of mixed migratory flows to Italian coastal areas** (Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG): approved a report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution;
- **Syrian refugees in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq: how to organise and support international assistance?** (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Marie Bockel, France, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the fact-finding mission to Turkey and Lebanon (19-22 August 2013), considered and declassified a memorandum, and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to Geneva and to Brussels, subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly;
- **Chinese migration to Europe: challenges and opportunities** (Rapporteur: Mr Thierry Mariani, France, EPP/CD): considered an outline for a report and authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to China in the framework of the preparation of his report, without cost to the Assembly and subject to authorisation by the Bureau;
- **Resettlement of refugees: an efficient tool for greater solidarity in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Eric Voruz, Switzerland, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to Geneva and to Malta, subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly;
- **on Thursday, 3 October 2013 at 8.30 a.m.**, as regards:
 - **International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP)**: heard a statement by Mr Adam Boys, Chief Operating Officer, ICMP;
 - **Missing persons from Europe's conflicts: the long road to finding humanitarian answers** (Rapporteur: Mr Jim Sheridan, United Kingdom, SOC): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Joint hearing with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on "Failures to implement Strasbourg Court provisional measures"**: held a joint hearing with presentations by:
 - Ms Clara Burbano Herrera, Senior Research Fellow, Human Rights Centre, Ghent University, Belgium;
 - Mr Vincent Berger, former Jurisconsult of the European Court of Human Rights, Lawyer, Paris;
 - Ms Heather McGill, Amnesty International, London;
- **on Thursday, 3 October 2013 at 2 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **Alternatives to Europe's sub-standard IDP collective centres** (Rapporteur: Mr René Rouquet, France, SOC): held an exchange of views with Ms Nadine Walicki, Senior Analyst, International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), and authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Georgia, subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly;
 - **Conference on Statelessness (date to be confirmed)**: took note of the information provided by Mr Olivier Beer, UNHCR representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg and agreed to jointly organise the Conference with UNHCR in the first half of 2014;
 - **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to texts adopted by the Assembly presented by the Committee**: considered the reply to Recommendation 2011 (2013) on "Trafficking of migrant workers for forced labour";
 - **Appointment of a Rapporteur**:
 - **Political participation for migrant Diaspora**: appointed Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) as Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;

- **Representation of the Committee at various events:**
 - appointed Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) to participate in the conference on “Challenges and prospects in the access of asylum seekers and migrants to international protection and humanitarian assistance in the EU”, organised by the European Parliament and the Red Cross EU Office in Brussels on 6 November 2013, subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly;
 - appointed Ms Anne-Mari Virolainen (Finland, EPP/CD) to participate in the Conference on “Wipe out hate! UNITED in Solidarity” organised by UNITED, near Prague, Czech Republic on 25-30 October 2013, subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly;
- **Other business:**
 - *Conference on Integration*: agreed to hold the Conference on Integration in Autumn 2014;
 - *Membership of Sub Committees*: approved the following changes:
 - Ms Mailis Reps (Estonia, ALDE), Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) and Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EDG) become titular members of the Sub Committee on Detention;
 - *2nd training for Parliamentarians on visiting places of detention for irregular migrants and asylum seekers (Zurich, 16-17 October 2013)*: on the basis of further requests to join the training course, decided to establish a reserve list including the following members: Mr Edgar Mayer (Austria), Mr Anvar Makhmutov (Russian Federation) and Ms El Bayed (Morocco);
 - *The “left-to-die boat”: actions and reactions* (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to the headquarters of the International Maritime Organisation in London;
- **Next meetings:**
 - **Paris**, 20 November 2013
 - **Strasbourg**, 21 and 22 November 2013, Sub-Committee on Detention in the framework of a conference on detention of migrants in Europe
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 1st part-session 2014 (27-31 January)
 - **Paris**, 13 March 2014 (tbc)
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2nd part-session 2014 (7-11 April)

Mark Neville, Agnès Nollinger, Olga Kostenko, Kelly Sipp

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

The **Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non European countries of origin and transit**, meeting in Strasbourg on 3 October 2013, with Mr Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The situation of migrants and refugees in Morocco: a new approach**: heard a presentation by **Dr Mokhtar Ghambou**, Member of the Parliament of Morocco, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Political participation of migrant diaspora**: held an exchange of views;
- **Next meeting**: left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting;