



SECRETARIAT

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6 October 2014

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 30 September, 1 and 2 October 2014

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

- on Tuesday, 30 September 2014 at 8.30 a.m., as regards:
 - **The situation of refugees and internally displaced persons of Ukraine** (Rapporteur: Mr Jim Sheridan, United Kingdom, SOC): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Gert Westerveen, UNHCR Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg, Ms Marina Leksina, Member of the Civic Assistance Committee, Moscow and Ms Natali Sevidova, Head of the NGO “Bridge Ukraine-EU”; was informed by the rapporteur of his intention to make a statement on “missing persons in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation” with regard to the conflict and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to Ukraine and the Russian Federation;
 - **Humanitarian consequences of the threats posed by the terrorist group called “Islamic State”**: considered and approved a draft motion for a resolution presented by the Committee with a view to its tabling, appointed Mr Jean-Marie Bockel (France, EPP/CD), Rapporteur, and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to Turkey, Germany and Switzerland, subject to the referral of the motion to the Committee by the Bureau;
 - **European standards and guidelines for guardians to address protection gaps of unaccompanied children in Europe**: heard a statement by Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC), held a hearing with the participation of Ms Martine Goeman, Programme Manager, Defence for Children on the standards elaborated by her organisation as well as with Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek, Chair of the Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H) of the Ministers’ Deputies on the possible follow up to be given;
- on Wednesday, 1 October 2014 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **Closing the protection gap of unaccompanied children in Europe**: Following the hearing on “European standards and guidelines for guardians to address protection gaps of unaccompanied children in Europe”, heard a statement by Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) and was informed of her intention to prepare a motion for a resolution on this subject;
 - **Organised crime and migrants** (Rapporteur: Mr Irakli Chikovani, Georgia, ALDE): considered a memorandum and held an exchange of views with Ms Giulia Falzoi, Head of Migration Management Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Rome, and authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Italy;
 - **Democratic participation for migrant diaspora** (Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE): in the absence of the rapporteur, took note of a preliminary draft report;

- **Criminalisation of irregular migrants: a crime without victim** (Rapporteur: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, ALDE): in the absence of the rapporteur, decided to postpone the consideration of a memorandum until its next meeting;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2000 (2014) on “The large-scale arrival of mixed migratory flows on Italian shores”** (Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Gert Westerveen, UNHCR Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg and Mr John Dalhuisen, Programme Director, Europe and Central Asia Programme, Amnesty International;
- **150th Anniversary of the ICRC**: was informed by Mr Roger Ruffy, Representative of the ICRC to the European Institutions in Strasbourg of the ceremony of commemoration in the presence of Mr Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC, to be held in Strasbourg on 2 December 2014 and appointed a delegation composed of Mr Thierry Mariani (France, EPP/CD), Mr Philippe Bies (France, SOC), Mr Jean-Marie Bockel (France, EPP/CD), Mr René Rouquet (France, SOC) and Mr Eric Voruz (Switzerland, SOC), to represent the Committee at this occasion subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly;
- **on Thursday, 2 October 2014 at 2 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **The alternatives to immigration detention of children** (Rapporteur: Ms Tinatin Bockuchava, Georgia, EPP/CD): was informed that there was no amendment to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation; took note of the invitation to support the Global Campaign to End Child Immigration Detention launched by the UN Human Rights Council and decided to come back to this question at one of its forthcoming meetings;
 - **Humanitarian situation in Ashraf/Liberty refugee camps**: held a hearing with representatives of the National Council of Resistance for Iran: Ms Dowlat Nowrouzi, NCRI UK representative, Ms Elaheh Azimfar, NCRI Representative for International Organisations, Mr Hossein Abedini, Member of the NCRI Foreign Affairs Committee, and with the participation of Mr Gert Westerveen, UNHCR Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg and proposed to hold a joint hearing with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy during one of the forthcoming part-sessions;
 - **Forced migration: a new challenge** (Rapporteur: Mr Philippe Bies, France, SOC): considered a memorandum and took note of the proposal of the rapporteur to hold a hearing at one of the next meetings of the Committee;
 - **Resettlement of refugees: promoting greater solidarity** (Rapporteur: Mr Eric Voruz, Switzerland, SOC): considered and approved amendments to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation proposed by the Rapporteur on behalf of the Committee and aimed to update the texts for adoption;
 - **Composition of the sub-committees**: approved the following changes:
 - Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit**
 - Mr Mika Raatikainen (Finland, NR) to become a titular member
 - Mr Łukasz Zbonikowski (Poland, EC) to become a titular member
 - Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) to become an alternate member
 - Sub-Committee on Detention**
 - Mr Mika Raatikainen (Finland, NR) to become a titular member
- **Work programme**:
 - Appointment of a rapporteur for report**
 - The Mediterranean Sea: a front door to irregular migration**: in her absence appointed Ms Daphné Dumery (Belgium, NR) subject to a declaration of absence of conflict of interest at the next meeting;

- **Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit** considered a draft programme of the Seminar on “The new migration policy of Morocco and European experience: new challenges in the integration policies and practices” (Rabat, Morocco, 23-24 October 2014);
- **Plenary Committee (Bucharest, Romania, 27-28 November 2014)**: considered a draft programme;
- **Representation of the Committee**

appointment:

Mr Manlio Di Stefano (Italy, NR) to participate in the conference on “Addressing social cohesion and effects of migrants’ integration in Europe and Asia” organised by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation on 3-4 November 2014 in Singapore, at no cost to the Assembly;

statement:

“Global Forum on Statelessness” organised by the UNHCR on 15-17 September 2014 in The Hague: statement by Mr Manlio Di Stefano (Italy, NR);

- **Consideration of the priorities of the Committee for 2015**: held an exchange of views;
- **Next meetings:**
 - **Rabat**, 23-24 October 2014, Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit
 - **Bucharest**, 27-28 November 2014
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 1st part-session 2015 (26-30 January)

Agnieszka Nachilo, Agnès Nollinger, Olga Kostenko

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