



SECRETARIAT

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10 December 2015

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Brussels (Senate) on 7 December 2015

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Brussels on 7 December 2015, with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair,

- **heard a welcome address by Ms Christine Defraigne, President of the Belgian Senate;**

as regards:

- **Foreign fighters in Syria** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Mr Gilles de Kerchove, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator; considered a draft report, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation with the following title: *Foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq*;
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Mr Mustafa Ibrahim Al Hamarneh, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives; considered a draft report, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **The situation in Kosovo* and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agustín Conde, Spain, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **The political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kristýna Zelenková, Czech Republic, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her meeting with Mr Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, on 12 November 2015, followed by an exchange of views with Mr Aldo Ferrari, Head of the Institute for International Political Studies Programme on Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia and Professor at Ca' Foscari University, Venice, and Mr Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress;
- **Sub-Committee on External Relations**: heard a statement by Mr André Bugnon (Switzerland, ALDE), Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the visit of the Sub-Committee to the United Nations bodies and other international organisations based in Geneva, 12-13 November 2015;

* All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

– **Work programme:**

- agreed to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to be seized for report on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017* and, subject to reference, proposed that the appointment of the Rapporteur take place during the January 2016 part-session; invited interested members to inform the Secretariat accordingly between now and the next part-session;
- agreed to the proposal by Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC) to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to be seized for opinion on the report on *Drafting social indicators and issuing an annual report on social rights / The “Turin process” for the European Social Charter*, which is being prepared by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development;

– **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:

- Sub-Committee on External Relations:
 - . Ms Hermine Naghdalyan (Armenia, EC),
 - . Ms Biruté Vėsaitė (Lithuania, SOC),
 - . Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC) with Mr Vincenzo Santangelo (Italy, NR) as his alternate, become members,
 - . Ms Sylvie Goy-Chavent (France, EPP/CD) becomes the alternate of Mr René Rouquet (France, SOC);
- Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD:
 - . Mr Carles Jordana Madero (Andorra, ALDE) becomes member;

– **Other business:** approved the proposal by Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), Rapporteur on the *Situation in Belarus*, to organise a hearing on the situation in Belarus during the January 2016 part-session, with the participation of a member of the Belarusian Parliament and Ms Tatiana Karatkevich, presidential candidate in 2015;

– **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings as follows:

- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1st part-session, 25-29 January 2016
- 8 March 2016 (venue to be confirmed)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 18-22 April 2016
- 24-25 May 2016 (venue to be confirmed)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session, 20-24 June 2016
- 8 September 2016 (venue to be confirmed)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session, 10-14 October 2016
- 7 November 2016 (venue to be confirmed)
- 15 December 2016 (venue to be confirmed).

D. Chatzivassiliou, J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko, S. Sirtori

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Director 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