



SECRETARIAT

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1 February 2016

## To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 25 to 28 January 2016

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 25 to 28 January 2016, first with Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC), oldest member present, then with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair:

#### Monday 25 January 2016, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**
  - elected, by acclamation, Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Chairperson,
  - elected, by acclamation, Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", EPP/CD), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson,
  - elected, by acclamation, Mr Karl Gardarsson (Iceland, ALDE), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson,
  - re-elected, by acclamation, Ms Maria Guzenina (Finland, SOC), 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson;
- **Debate under urgent procedure - Combating international terrorism while protecting Council of Europe standards and values:** appointed Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) as Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest, and held an exchange of views with Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Reconstitution of Sub-Committees:** reconstituted the following Sub-Committees:
  - Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World,
  - Sub-Committee on External Relations,
  - Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD;

#### Tuesday 26 January 2016, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Debate under urgent procedure - Combating international terrorism while protecting Council of Europe standards and values** (*Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EC*): took position on 5 amendments to the draft resolution, and took note that the report would be presented to the Assembly by the Chairperson of the Committee;

– **Work programme:**

- decided, further to an invitation letter from Mr Karl Garðarsson, Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation, to hold a meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 26 September 2016, which was authorised by the Bureau of the Assembly;
- appointed Ms Birutė Vėsaitė (Lithuania, SOC) as Rapporteur on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- called for candidates:
  - for report on the *Political transition in Egypt*,
  - for report on *Call for a Council of Europe Summit to defend and promote democratic security in Europe*,
  - for opinion on *Towards a democratic approach to the issues of governance in European multinational States*,
  - for opinion on *Drafting social indicators and issuing an annual report on social rights*;

**Tuesday 26 January 2016, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:**

– **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): took position on 6 amendments to the draft resolution;

– **Work programme (continued):**

- in the framework of the Assembly's institutional representation, appointed the following members and substitutes and decided to inform the Bureau of the Assembly accordingly:
  - Council for democratic elections of the Venice Commission:
    - . Member: Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC),
    - . Substitute: Mr Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC);
  - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI):
    - . Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC)
    - . Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD);

– **Authorisations by the Committee:**

- approved the requests, which were subsequently authorised by the Bureau of the Assembly, by:
  - Mr Georges Loukaides (Cyprus, UEL) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Tunisia in the first half of 2016, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *The political transition in Tunisia*;
  - Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Lebanon during the first half of 2016, in the framework of the preparation of his report on the *Situation in Lebanon and challenges for regional stability and European security*;
  - Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kyrgyzstan, during the first half of 2016, in the framework of the preparation of his report on the *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*;
  - Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Tunisia and to Brussels in the first half of 2016, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *Libya's future between the threats of terrorism and a democratic prospect*;
- authorised Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) to attend the German Parliamentary Conference on "Combating Anti-Semitism" in Berlin (Germany) on 13-15 March 2016, in the framework of the preparation of his opinion on the report on *Renewed commitment in the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe*;

- took note that Mr René Rouquet (France, SOC) was authorised by the Bureau of the Assembly to carry out a fact-finding visit to Algeria in the context of the preparation of his report on *Establishing genuine parliamentary dialogue with Algeria*, and that he intended to carry out this visit from 21 to 23 March 2016;

– **Other business:**

- agreed to present to the Bureau of the Assembly the requests for an extension until 31 January 2017 for the following reports:
  - *The political transition in Tunisia*,
  - *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*,
  - *Situation in Belarus*;
- decided to authorise the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend the meetings of the Committee throughout 2016;
- took note of the call for nominations for the 2016 Vaclav Havel Prize, and that the deadline for applications was 30 April 2016;

**Wednesday 27 January 2016, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:**

– **Joint debate**

**Debate under urgent procedure - Combating international terrorism while protecting Council of Europe standards and values** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): took position on 2 amendments to the draft resolution;

**Foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC*): took position on 16 amendments to the draft resolution and 6 amendments to the draft recommendation;

- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** appointed the members of its Sub-Committees (see appendix), it being understood that delegations with more than one full member in a given Sub-Committee would make available the extra places should a delegation not represented in that Sub-Committee submit a candidate;

**Thursday 28 January 2016, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:**

- **The situation in Kosovo<sup>\*</sup> and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agustín Conde, Spain, EPP/CD*): took position on 10 amendments to the draft resolution and took note that the report would be presented to the Assembly by the Chairperson of the Committee;

- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Nikolai Samoseiko, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, and Ms Tatiana Karatkevich, presidential candidate in 2015;

- **Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Ukraine on 19-20 January 2016;

- **Open discussion on current issues:** agreed to a proposal by Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC) to hold a hearing on *The state of democracy and the rule of law in Poland* at its next meeting in Paris, on the morning of 8 March 2016, with the participation of representatives of civil society, the media, the governing coalition and the opposition of Poland;

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<sup>\*</sup> 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.

- **Next meetings:** decided on forthcoming meetings as follows:
  - 8 March 2016 (Paris)
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session, 18-22 April 2016
  - 24-25 May 2016 (venue to be confirmed)
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session, 20-24 June 2016
  - 26 September 2016, Reykjavik, Iceland
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> part-session, 10-14 October 2016
  - 7 November 2016 (venue to be confirmed)
  - 15 December 2016 (venue to be confirmed).

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The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 27 January 2016 with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC), Chairperson, and Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE), Vice-Chairperson, both by acclamation;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene its next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on External Relations** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 27 January 2016 with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected Ms Meritxell Mateu (Andorra, ALDE), Chairperson, and Ms Aleksandra Djurović (Serbia, EPP/CD), Vice-Chairperson, both by acclamation;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene its next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 27 January 2016 with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) Chairperson, by acclamation; decided to postpone the election of the Vice-Chairperson until the next meeting;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene its next meeting.

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

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

## APPENDIX

**Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient et le monde arabe  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Président(e)**

Mr Titus CORLĂȚEAN (SOC) Romania / Roumanie

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)**

Ms Kerstin LUNDGREN (ALDE) Sweden / Suède

**Members / Membres**

Ms NAGHDALYAN Hermine (EC)  
Ms MUTTONEN Christine (SOC)  
Mr VAN DER MAELEN Dirk (SOC)  
Mr ŠEPIĆ Senad (EPP/CD)  
Mr LOUKAIDES Georges (UEL)  
Ms VÁHALOVÁ Dana (SOC)  
Ms GUZENINA Maria (SOC)  
Mme DURRIEU Josette (SOC)  
M. LEGENDRE Jacques (EPP/CD)  
Mr ZECH Tobias (EPP/CD)  
Mr HUNKO Andrej (UEL)  
Mr BAKRADZE David (EPP/CD)  
Ms KAVVADIA Ioanneta (UEL)  
Mr LEYDEN Terry (ALDE)  
Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)  
Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)  
Ms OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria (EPP/CD)  
Mr KLICH Bogdan (EPP/CD)  
Ms MENDES Ana Caterina (SOC)  
Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)  
Ms RODRÍGUEZ Soraya (SOC)  
Ms LUNDGREN Kerstin (ALDE)  
Mme FIALA Doris (ALDE)  
Mr KANDEMIR Erkan (EC)  
Lord ANDERSON Donald (SOC)  
Mr WILSON Phil (SOC)  
Mme BRASSEUR Anne (ALDE)

Armenia / Arménie  
Austria / Autriche  
Belgium / Belgique  
Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie Herzégovine  
Cyprus / Chypre  
Czech Republic / République tchèque  
Finland / Finlande  
France  
France  
Germany / Allemagne  
Germany / Allemagne  
Georgia / Géorgie  
Greece / Grèce  
Ireland / Irlande  
Italy / Italie  
Lithuania / Lituanie  
Netherlands / Pays-Bas  
Poland / Pologne  
Portugal  
Romania / Roumanie  
Spain / Espagne  
Sweden / Suède  
Switzerland / Suisse  
Turkey / Turquie  
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni  
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni  
Présidente de l'Assemblée sortante  
Immediate past President of the Assembly  
Chairperson UEL / Président GUE

**Alternates / Remplaçants**

Ms WURM Gisela (SOC)  
Ms DUMERY Daphné (NR)  
Ms KYRIADKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)  
M. ROCHEBLOINE François (EPP/CD)  
Mr HARDT Jürgen (EPP/CD)  
Mr DOUZINAS Konstantinos (UEL)  
Mr RIGONI Andrea (ALDE)  
Mr HALICKI Andrzej (EPP/CD)  
Mr SILVA Adão (EPP/CD)  
Mr KORODI Attila (EPP/CD)  
Mr BILLSTRÖM Tobias (EPP/CD)  
M. HEER Alfred (ALDE)  
Mr KÜÇÜKCAN Talip (EC)  
Ms AHMED-SHEIKH Tasmina (SOC)

Mr KOX Tiny

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**Ex-officio:**

Mr Mogens JENSEN Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /  
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

**Sub-Committee on External Relations  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission des relations extérieures  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Président(e)**

Mme Meritxell MATEU (ALDE) Andorra / Andorre

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)**

Ms Aleksandra DJUROVIĆ (EPP/CD) Serbia / Serbie

**Members / Membres**

Mme MATEU Meritxell (ALDE)  
Ms NAGHDALYAN Hermine (EC)  
Ms WURM Gisela (SOC)  
Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC)  
M. DESTEXHE Alain (ALDE)  
Mr ŠEPIĆ Senad (EPP/CD)  
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Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)  
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Ms GUZENINA Maria (SOC)  
M. ROUQUET René (SOC)  
Mr HUNKO Andrej (UEL)  
Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)  
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Ms MITCHELL Olivia (EPP/CD)  
Mr NICOLETTI Michele (SOC)  
Ms VÉSAITÉ Biruté (SOC)  
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Mr SEKULIĆ Predrag (SOC)  
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Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (ALDE)  
M. IORDACHE Florin (SOC)  
Ms DJUROVIĆ Aleksandra (EPP/CD)  
Mr GUNNARSSON Jonas (SOC)  
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Elisabeth (EPP/CD)  
Mr KÜÇÜKCAN Talip (EC)  
Ms SOTNYK Olena (ALDE)  
Lord David BLENCATHRA (EC)  
Mme BRASSEUR Anne (ALDE)

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Turkey / Turquie  
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Immediate past President of the Assembly /  
Présidente de l'Assemblée sortante

**Alternates / Remplaçants**

Mr AMON Werner (EPP/CD)  
Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)  
M. Van DER MAELEN Dirk (SOC)  
Ms KYRIADKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)  
Ms GOY-CHAVENT Sylvie (EPP/CD)  
Ms WERNER Katrin (UEL)  
Ms KAVVADIA Ioanneta (UEL)  
Ms QUARTAPELLE Lia (SOC)  
Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)  
Ms OBRADOVIĆ Marija (EPP/CD)  
Mr BILLSTRÖM Tobias (EPP/CD)  
Mme MAURY PASQUIER Liliane (SOC)  
Mr KANDEMIR Erkan (EC)  
Mr UNGURYAN Pavlo (EPP/CD)  
Mr WILSON Phil (SOC)

**Ex-officio:**

Mr Mogens JENSEN

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /  
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

**Waiting list:**

Mr FISCHER Axel, Chairperson EPP/CD / Président PPE/DC  
Mr GUTIÉRREZ Antonio (SOC), Spain / Espagne

**Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD /  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /**

**Sous-commission des relations avec l'OCDE et la BERD  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Président(e)**

Ms Theodora BAKOYANNIS (EPP/CD) Greece / Grèce

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)**

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**Members / Membres**

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M. JORDANA Carles (ALDE)	Andorra / Andorre	
Ms MUTTONEN Christine (SOC)	Austria / Autriche	
Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)
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Ms ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna (ALDE)	Czech Republic / République tchèque	Ms VÁHALOVÁ Dana (SOC)
Ms KALMARI Anne (ALDE)	Finland / Finlande	
Mme DURRIEU Josette (SOC)	France	
Mme ZIMMERMAN Marie-Jo (EPP/CD)	France	
Mr BAKRADZE David (EPP/CD)	Georgia / Géorgie	
Mr WELLMANN Karl-Georg (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr FISCHER Axel E. (EPP/CD)
Ms WERNER Katrin (UEL)	Germany / Allemagne	
Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr MEIMARAKIS Evangelos (EPP/CD)
Mr LEYDEN Terry (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
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Ms VÉSAITÉ Biruté (SOC)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
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M. PASQUIER Bernard (ALDE)	Monaco	
Mr SEKULIĆ Predrag (SOC)	Montenegro / Monténégro	
Mr TUUR Elzinga (UEL)	Netherlands / Pay-Bas	
Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr POPA Ion (EPP/CD)
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Mr KARLSSON Niklas (SOC)	Sweden / Suède	Mr GUNNARSSON Jonas (SOC)
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Ms TOLHURST Kelly (EC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr BEBB Guto (EC)
Mr KOX Tiny	Chairperson UEL / Président GUE	
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Ex-officio:

Mr Mogens JENSEN

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /  
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