



SECRETARIAT

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27 June 2016

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 21 to 23 June 2016

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 21 to 23 June 2016, with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) and Mr Karl Garðarsson (Iceland, ALDE) in the Chair:

Tuesday 21 June 2016, 8:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Political consequences of the conflict in Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kristýna Zeličková, Czech Republic, ALDE*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Axel Fischer, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan from 31 May to 2 June 2016 and held an exchange of views with the participation of a delegation of the Parliament of Kazakhstan: Mr Nurlan Abdirov and Mr Kabibulla Jakupov, members of the Mazhilis; Mr Bektas Beknazarov and Mr Georgy Kim, members of the Senate; Ms Verena Taylor, Director, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes; Mr Jiri Vogl, Head of Department of Relations with International Organisations and Non-Member States, Directorate of External Relations; and Mr Sergueï Kouznetsov, Head of the Neighbourhood Co-operation Division, Secretariat of the Venice Commission;
- **Appointment of the institutional representatives of the Committee**: appointed Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) as Substitute for the Council for democratic elections of the Venice Commission, in place of Mr Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC);
- **Authorisations by the Committee**: authorised Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur on *Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress*, to pay a fact-finding visit to The Hague, Netherlands, in the framework of the preparation of his report and decided to transmit to the Bureau of the Assembly a request for the extension of this reference until 29 September 2017; it also authorised Mr Nicoletti to participate in the Colloquy on the future of the Council of Europe, Paris, 12 September 2016;
- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees**: agreed to the request that Mr Georgios Psychogios (Greece, UEL) becomes alternate of Ms Ioanetta Kavvadia (UEL), in place of Mr Konstantinos Douzinas (UEL), in the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World;

Tuesday 21 June 2016, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

- **Situation in Lebanon and challenges for regional stability and European security** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tobias Zech, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Lebanon from 15 to 16 June 2016, followed by an exchange of views;

– **The political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with Mr Imad Daimi, Mr Ramzi Ben Fraj, Ms Sana Salhi, and Mr Souhail El Elouini, members of the Assembly of People's Representatives, Parliament of Tunisia;

Thursday 23 June 2016, 8:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

– **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his participation in the Round Table on *Electoral Standards and Electoral Process Improvement in Belarus* (Minsk, 18 May 2016), followed by an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Nikolai Samoseiko, member of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus; Ms Tatiana Karatkevich, Leader of the civil campaign "Tell the Truth"; and Mr Pierre Garrone, Head of the Elections and Political Parties Division, Secretariat of the Venice Commission;

– **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to his request to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to be seized for a new report;

– **The political transition in Egypt** (*Rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with Mr Mohamed Abbasy, Mr Belal El Nahal and Mr Tarek Radwan, members of the Egyptian House of Representatives;

– **Work programme:** called for candidates for the following reports:

- Counter-Narratives to Terrorism (for report)
- The concern about fiscal, social justice and public trust in our democratic system (for opinion)
- Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the "Cairo Declaration"? (for opinion);

– **World Forum for Democracy on *Education and democracy: how to bridge the social divides?*** (**Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2016**): proposed the following members to be appointed to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly:

- Mr Deniz Baykal (Turkey, SOC)
- Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC)
- Mr Senad Šepić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD);

– **Other business:** took note that the deadline for submitting candidates for the Vaclav Havel Prize is 30 June 2016;

– **Next meetings:** took note of the draft programme and practical information concerning the meeting of the Committee in Iceland on 26 September 2016, and noted the forthcoming meetings as follows:

- Paris, 12 September 2016, Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD (tbc)
- Reykjavik, 26 September 2016
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session, 10-14 October 2016
- Paris, 7 November 2016
- Paris, 15 December 2016.

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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 22 June 2016, with first Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) and then Mr Bernard Pasquier (Monaco, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected Mr Bernard Pasquier (Monaco, ALDE) as Vice-Chairperson;
- **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017** (*Rapporteur: Ms Birutė Vésaitė, Lithuania, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her participation in the OECD Forum (30 May-1 June 2016) and discussed the preparation of a meeting to be held at the OECD Headquarters in Paris on 12 September 2016 (date to be confirmed);
- **Future work:** proposed that the Committee be seized for a new report on *The activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** Paris, 12 September 2016 (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 22 June 2016, with Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Evaluation of the Partnership for democracy status in respect of the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her participation in the Seminar on Parliamentary Democracy which was held in Amman, Jordan on 30 May 2016;
- **Situation in the Middle East:** held an exchange of views with Mr Mohamed Abbasy, Mr Belal El Nahal and Mr Tarek Radwan, members of the Egyptian House of Representatives; heard statements by Mr Bernard Sabella (PNC) and Ms Aliza Lavie (Knesset) on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
- **Future work:** considered the possibility of holding a meeting in Tunis (Tunisia) or in the Palestinian Territories and in Israel, and asked the Secretariat to pursue this question;
- **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 22 June 2016, with Ms Meritxell Mateu (Andorra, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Future work:** agreed with the proposals by the Chairperson:
 - to hold a meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7 to 9 December 2016 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly), and discussed the programme of meetings;
 - to organise, in Strasbourg or Paris, an exchange of views with representatives of the permanent Committee on Political Issues and International Co-operation of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS IPA);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** during the 4th part-session of the Assembly.

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