



SECRETARIAT

**AS/Pol (2017) CB 02**  
8 March 2017

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris 6 March 2017

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 6 March 2017, with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017** (*Rapporteur: Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his participation in the OECD 5<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Days, Paris, 8-10 February 2017, held an exchange of views, considered an outline for report and approved the calendar proposed by the Rapporteur;
- **Call for a Council of Europe Summit to defend and promote democratic security in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, held an exchange of views, considered and decided to declassify a memorandum and its addendum, and approved the proposal by the Rapporteur to schedule the adoption of his report by the Committee at its meeting in September 2017, with a view to an Assembly debate during the October 2017 part-session;
- **Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and approved his proposal to schedule the adoption of his report by the Committee at its meeting on 14 June 2017, with a view to an Assembly debate during the June 2017 part-session;
- **Setting minimal standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, took note of the outline for report and postponed the discussion of this item to one of its next meetings;
- **The political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, held an exchange of views, considered a memorandum and approved the proposal by the Rapporteur to schedule the adoption of his report by the Committee at its meeting during the April 2017 part-session, following his visit to the country from 28 to 30 March 2017;
- **The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Alain Destexhe, Belgium, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views with Mr Serguei Kouznetsov, Head of Division, Neighbourhood Co-operation, Venice Commission, and considered an introductory memorandum;
- **The situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, held an exchange of views, considered a memorandum and approved the proposal by the Rapporteur to schedule the adoption of his report by the Committee at its meeting during the April 2017 part-session, following his visit to the country on 22-24 March 2017, with a view to an Assembly debate during the June 2017 part-session;

– **Open discussion on current issues:**

- recent developments in Turkey: heard a statement by Mr Küçükcan, Chairperson of the Turkish delegation, regarding *inter alia* the prevention of meetings of Turkish citizens in Europe with Turkish ministers and held an exchange of views on the constitutional amendments adopted by the Grand National Assembly and submitted to a national referendum, as well as on measures taken in response to the coup attempt of 15 July 2016;
- recent developments in relations between Palestinians and Israelis: held an exchange of views further to which, upon its Chairperson's proposal and after a vote, decided to request that a debate under the title *Political consequences of the new Israeli Settlement Regulation Law* be held, under urgent procedure, during the April 2017 part-session of the Assembly;

– **Ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to participate in the events organised by the IPA-CIS, Saint Petersburg, 27-28 March 2017:** approved the changes to the list of members (see changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees below) and agreed that the Chairperson of the Committee would also chair the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee;

– **The interaction between the political majority and the opposition in a democracy:** decided to set up an *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the International Conference organised by the Venice Commission in co-operation with the Presidency of Romania, in Bucharest, Romania, 6-7 April 2017 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly), made a call for candidates, appointed members who expressed their interest (see Appendix) and authorised the Chairperson to appoint other members who would confirm their interest to the Secretariat of the Committee by 24 March 2017;

– **Protecting and supporting victims of terrorism:** upon the proposal of its Chairperson, adopted a motion for a resolution as a follow-up to the exchange of views on terrorism with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on 24 January 2017;

– **Appointment of Rapporteur:** appointed Ms Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE) as Rapporteur on *Assessing political consequences of foreign funding of Islam in Europe* and heard from her a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;

– **Call for candidates:** called for candidates for the following:

- The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries (for report),
- Prosecuting and punishing the crimes against humanity or even possible genocide committed by Daesh (for opinion),
- Counter-Narratives to Terrorism (for opinion),
- Media freedom as a condition for democratic elections (for opinion);

– **Moratorium on arms sales in the Middle East:** took note of this motion for information;

– **Implementation of OECD recommendations:** took note of the motion for a resolution which is to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017*;

– **Illegal elections in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and in the city of Sebastopol:** held an initial exchange of views and agreed to come back to the question at its next meeting;

– **Authorisations by the Committee:** approved the following requests:

- Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Jordan in 2017 in the context of the preparation of her report on *The Evaluation of the Partnership for democracy status in respect of the Parliament of Jordan* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);

- Mr Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan in 2017 in the context of the preparation of his report on *The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
  - Mr Bogdan Klich (Poland, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Morocco in 2017 in the context of the preparation of his report on *The Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
  - Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE), to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kyrgyzstan as well as to Uzbekistan, in the second half of 2017, in the context of the preparation of his report on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
  - Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Tunisia in 2017 in the context of his report on *Libya's future between the threats of terrorism and a democratic prospect* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
- Mr José Cepeda (Spain, SOC) becomes member of the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD;
  - Ms Nina Kasimati (Greece, UEL), Mr Mato Franković (Croatia, EPP/CD), Ms Naira Karapetyan (Armenia, EPP/CD), and Dame Rosie Winterton (United Kingdom, SOC) become members of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to participate in the events organised by the IPA-CIS, Saint Petersburg, 27-28 March 2017; Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC), Mr Jean-Claude Mignon (France, EPP/CD), Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) and Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC) are no longer members of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee as they are unable to participate;
- **Next meetings:** took note that the meeting in Denmark would be held on Bornholm Island and confirmed the next meetings as follows:
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session, 24-28 April 2017
  - 14-15 June 2017, Bornholm Island, Denmark (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau)
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session, 26-30 June 2017
  - 6 September 2017, Paris
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> part-session, 9-13 October 2017
  - 14 November 2017, Paris
  - 14 December 2017, Paris.

D. Chatzivassiliou, P. Chevtchenko, A. Salanson

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

**ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy  
to participate in the International Conference organised by the Venice Commission in co-operation  
with the Presidency of Romania, Bucharest, Romania, 6-7 April 2017, on  
The interaction between the political majority and the opposition in a democracy**

***Sous-commission ad hoc de la Commission des questions politique et de la démocratie  
pour participer à la Conférence internationale organisée par la Commission de Venise en  
coopération avec la Présidence de la Roumanie, Bucarest, Roumanie, 6-7 avril 2017, sur  
L'interaction entre la majorité politique et l'opposition dans une démocratie***

29 seats / 29 sièges

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Président(e)**

...

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

...

***Members / Membres***

- |    |                                   |                  |
|----|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Mr René ROUQUET (SOC)             | France           |
| 2. | Mr Jean-Claude MIGNON (EPP/CD)    | France           |
| 3. | Mr Andrea RIGONI (ADLE)           | Italy / Italie   |
| 4. | Ms Elena CENTEMERO (EPP/CD)       | Italy / Italie   |
| 5. | Mr Jordi XUCLÀ (Chairperson ALDE) | Spain / Espagne  |
| 6. | Mr Deniz BAYKAL (SOC)             | Turkey / Turquie |