



SECRETARIAT

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30 June 2017

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg
from 26 to 29 June 2017

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 26 to 29 June 2017, with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair:

Monday 26 June 2017, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:

- **A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Ioanneta Kavvadia, Greece, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur for opinion and considered and approved its opinion;
- **Assessing political consequences of foreign funding of Islam in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Doris Fiala, Switzerland, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; considered an outline for report; authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Vienna, Austria, took note that the Rapporteur would send a questionnaire to all national delegations on this issue, and that she wished to organise a hearing at a forthcoming meeting of the Committee;
- **The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tobias Zech, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;

Tuesday 27 June 2017, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, 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; considered a preliminary draft report and agreed that it be sent to the parliaments of the OECD member States which are not members of the Council of Europe, as well as to the European Parliament and to the OECD, for comments or contributions;
- **Populism – how strong are Europe's checks and balances?**: held an exchange of views with Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on his 2017 report on the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law and took note of the fact that populism was also the main theme of the forthcoming World Forum for Democracy;

Tuesday 27 June 2017, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

- **Promoting integrity in governance to tackle political corruption** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): considered and took position on 10 amendments to the draft resolution and on 1 amendment to the draft recommendation;
- **The situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): considered and took position on 4 amendments to the draft resolution;

- **Establishing genuine parliamentary dialogue with Algeria** (*Rapporteur: Mr René Rouquet, France, SOC*): in the absence of both the Algerian delegation and the Rapporteur, decided to postpone this item to one of its forthcoming meetings;

Wednesday 28 June 2017, 14:00 – 15:30, room 1, as regards:

- **Preventing extremism and terrorism and protecting victims**: held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Brendan Cox, Founder of the Jo Cox Foundation, United Kingdom; Ms Sajda Mughal, Executive Director, JAN Trust Organisation, and survivor of the 7/7 bombing in London, United Kingdom (both via video link); Imam Imran Muhammad, Trainer on the [Me and You Education project](#), Manchester, United Kingdom, and Ms Gabriella Battaini Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

Thursday 29 June 2017, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **The “Turin process”: reinforcing social rights in Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur for opinion, considered and approved its opinion;
- **Recent developments in Hungary: follow-up to Resolution 2162 (2017)**: in the absence of the Hungarian delegation decided to postpone the discussion on this item at its next meeting;

- **Appointment of Rapporteurs:**

- appointed:

.Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Counter-Narratives to Terrorism* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest,

.Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations*, subject to hearing from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest,

.Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC) as Rapporteur on *A commitment to introduce rules to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States*, subject to hearing from her a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest,

- decided to postpone to its next meeting the appointment of Rapporteurs on:

.*Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism,*

.*A two-State solution in Israel and Palestine,*

.*The situation in Kosovo*^{*};

- **World Forum for Democracy on *Is Populism a problem?* (Strasbourg, 8 to 10 November 2017)**: proposed the following members to be appointed to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly:

- Ms Thorhildur S. ÆVARSDÓTTIR (Iceland, NR)
- Mr Deniz BAYKAL (Turkey, SOC)
- Mr Bogdan KLICH (Poland, EPP/CD)
- Mr Michele NICOLETTI (Italy, SOC)
- Mr Andrea RIGONI (Italy, ALDE);

^{*} Throughout this text, all reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

– **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees:**

Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD

Lord George Foulkes (United Kingdom, SOC) becomes member;

Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World

Mr Armen Rustamyan (Armenia, SOC) becomes member instead of alternate further to the departure of Ms Naira Karapetyan (EPP/CD);

Sub-Committee on External Relations

Mr Algirdas Butkevičius (Lithuania, SOC) and Mr Barry Cowen (Ireland, ALDE) become members following the departure of Ms Naira Karapetyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) and Mr Mato Franković (Croatia, EPP/CD);

– **Next meetings:** confirmed the forthcoming meetings as follows:

- 6 September 2017, Paris
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session, 9-13 October 2017
- 14 November 2017, Paris
- 14 December 2017, Paris

and took note of the invitation received from the Chairperson of the Greek delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, Ms Ioanneta Kavvadia, for the Committee to hold a meeting in Greece in 2018.

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