



SECRETARIAT

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16 October 2017

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 9 to 12 October 2017

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 9 to 12 October 2017, with Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD), first Vice-Chairperson, and Ms Maria Guzenina (Finland, SOC), third Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

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

- **The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Jordan on 10-11 September 2017, considered and approved an addendum to the report including 3 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Prosecuting and punishing the crimes against humanity or even possible genocide committed by Daesh** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, NR*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered and approved an opinion;

Tuesday 10 October 2017, 08:30 – 10:00, room 1, as regards:

- **Follow-up to Resolution 2172 (2017) on The situation in Belarus** (*Former Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the former Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Andrei Naumovich, Head of the working group on the death penalty issue, National Assembly of Belarus; Ms Elena Anissim, member of the Standing Committee on education, culture and science, National Assembly of Belarus; Mr Ales Bialiatski, Viasna Human Rights Centre; and Mr Vital Rymasheuski, Belarusian Christian Democracy Party; authorised Mr Rigoni to attend meetings of the working group of the National Assembly of Belarus on the death penalty issue and to visit the region of Minsk from 22 to 26 November 2017 at no cost to the Assembly (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- Enlarged debate on **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017** (*Rapporteur: Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE*): took position on 9 amendments to the draft resolution and held an exchange of views with the participation of delegations of national parliaments of OECD member States which are not members of the Council of Europe;
- **The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): took position on 9 amendments to the draft resolution;

Tuesday 10 October 2017, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

- **The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tobias Zech, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Christian Springer, founder of the non-profit organisation *Orienteherfer*;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: held exchanges of views on the recent developments in Spain and in Turkey;

Wednesday 11 October 2017, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

- **Call for a Council of Europe Summit to defend and promote democratic security in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): took position on 15 amendments to the draft resolution and 3 amendments to the draft recommendation;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2162 (2017) on Alarming developments in Hungary: draft NGO law restricting civil society and possible closure of the European Central University** (*Former Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*): held an exchange of views with members of the Hungarian delegation to the Assembly;

Thursday 12 October 2017, 09:15 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Axel Fischer, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statements by the Rapporteur, as well as by Mr Sergey Plotnikov and Ms Saule Aitpaeva, both members of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan; considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Work programme:**
 - appointed Mr Jordi Roca (Spain, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *The situation in Kosovo*^{*} and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
 - appointed Ms Arpine Hovhannisyanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Establishment of a European Union mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights*;
 - called for candidates for report on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*;
 - took note of the programme for the 2017 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 8-10 November 2017) and proposed that Mr Krzysztof Truskolaski (Poland, ALDE) be appointed to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **The humanitarian situation of the Rohingya people**: considered a draft statement according to Rule 47.9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and authorised the Vice-Chairperson to publish it in the name of the Committee;
- **Authorisations by the Committee**: approved the request by the Sub-Committee on External Relations to hold a meeting in Geneva on either 27-28 November or 11-12 December 2017 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees**: approved the following changes:
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations
 - Ms Sylvie Goy-Chavent (France, EPP/CD) becomes full member, with Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) as alternate;
 - Ms Marija Obradović (Serbia, EPP/CD) becomes full member;

^{*} 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.

Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World

- Mr Pieyre-Alexandre Anglade (France, NR) replaces Mr François Rochebloine (France, EPP/CD) as alternate to Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC);

Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD

- Mr Jacques Maire (France, NR) replaces Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) as full member and Ms Durrieu becomes his alternate;
- Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC) becomes alternate of Ms Kelly Tolhurst (United Kingdom, EC);

– **Other business:** took note of the letter from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) concerning its democracy campaign, was informed that the IPU petition #StrongerDemocracies (available online at campaign.ipu.org) was signed by the Chairperson of the Committee when it went online on 15 September, international day of democracy, and encouraged members to sign as well;

– **Next meetings:** took note of the meeting of the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and EBRD which will take place at the EBRD headquarters in London on 26 October 2017 and confirmed the next meetings as follows:

- 14 November 2017, Paris
- 14 December 2017, Paris.

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The **Sub-Committee on External Relations** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 12 October 2017 with Mr Senad Šepić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD), Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

– **Future work:** agreed to the following proposals by the Vice-Chairperson:

. to hold a meeting with international organisations in Geneva (Switzerland) either on 27-28 November or on 11-12 December 2017 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly), it being understood that the Vice-Chairperson will formally convene the meeting after consultation of all members on the best suitable dates, and provided that a sufficient number of members are able to attend;

. to organise in 2018 an exchange of views with Council of Europe officials on co-operation with the United Nations, in the framework of the preparation of the report on *Strengthening Co-operation with the United Nations* (Rapporteur: Mr Adão Silva, Portugal, EPP/CD);

. to organise 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) in Paris on 14 December 2017;

– **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Vice-Chairperson to convene its next meeting under conditions mentioned above.

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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 12 October 2017 with Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC) in the Chair, as regards:

– **Preparation of the meeting at the EBRD headquarters in London, 26 October 2017:** heard a statement by Mr Hendrik Daems (Belgium, ALDE), Rapporteur on *The activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)* and discussed the programme of the meeting;

– **Date and place of next meeting:** London, 26 October 2017.

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