



SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2017) CB 09

18 December 2017

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris 14 December 2017

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 14 December 2017, with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Follow-up to Resolution 2186 (2017) and Recommendation 2113 (2017) on the Call for a Council of Europe summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe** (*Former Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2172 (2017) and Recommendation 2107 (2017) on The situation in Belarus** (*Former Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): considered the reply by the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2107 (2017) and heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his participation in the meetings of the Working Group on the death penalty issue, Minsk, Republic of Belarus, 23-25 November 2017;
- **The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, approved his request to carry out a fact-finding visit to Morocco in 2018 in the context of the preparation of his report (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly);
- **Libya's future between the threats of terrorism and a democratic prospect** (*Rapporteur: Mr Attila Korodi, Romania, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission; Mr Arturo Varvelli, Co-Head of the Middle East and North Africa Centre, Institute for International Political Studies, Milan; Ms Matilda Bogner, Head of the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL); and Mr Lorenzo Kluzer, Senior Policy Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service, European Union; considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to change the title to: *The situation in Libya: prospects and role of the Council of Europe*;
- **A two-State solution in Israel and Palestine** (*Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views with the participation of the Israeli and the Palestinian delegations; decided to request an urgent debate, with the title *The Israeli-Palestinian peace process: the role of the Council of Europe*, to be held during the January 2018 part-session and appointed Mr Corlăţean as Rapporteur, subject to the decision of the Assembly;

- **Call for candidates:** called for candidates for the following reports:
 - .The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic,
 - .The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan,
 - .Identity, role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly as a statutory organ of the Council of Europe, and a pan-European forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue,
 - .Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism;
- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations
 - Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EC) replaces Lord David Blencathra (EC) as member and Mr Conor McGinn (United Kingdom, SOC) replaces Mr Phil Wilson (SOC) as substitute,
 - Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World
 - Mr John Howell (United Kingdom, EC) becomes alternate to Mr Phil Wilson (SOC),
 - Ms Nicole Duranton (France, EPP/CD) replaces Ms Josette Durrieu (SOC) as member,
 - Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) becomes member,
 - Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD
 - Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC) becomes member with Lord Foulkes (SOC) as her alternate;
- **Other business:**
 - agreed to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to be seized for report on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2018-2019*,
 - agreed to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to extend for 2 years the reference for the report on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*, further to the departure of the Rapporteur;
- **Next meetings:**
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1st part-session, 22-26 January 2018
 - Paris, 12 March 2018
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 23-27 April 2018
 - Athens, Greece, 22 May 2018 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly)
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session, 25-29 June 2018
 - Paris, 11 September 2018
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session, 8-12 October 2018
 - Paris, 13 November 2018
 - Paris, 13 December 2018.

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The **Sub-Committee on External Relations** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Paris on 14 December 2017 with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), in the Chair, as regards:

– **Exchange of views with members of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS)**: held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Leonid Kalashnikov, Chairman of the Delegation of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to IPA CIS;

– **Future work**: decided to organise a hearing on the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations in the course of 2018 and took note that, in accordance with Assembly Order 500 (1994) on *Relations between the Council of Europe and the United Nations*, the Sub-Committee would hold a meeting at the United Nations in New York in 2018;

– **Date and place of the next meeting**: during the January 2018 part-session of the Assembly.

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

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
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