



SECRETARIAT

AS/PoI/CB (2018) 02

14 March 2018

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 12 March 2018

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 12 March 2018 with Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Implementation of budgetary savings within the Assembly following the decisions by the Bureau:** heard a statement by the Chairperson, and decided to revert to the issue at its next meeting;
- **Open discussion on current issues:** heard a statement by the Chairperson on the recent flare-up of tension between Turkey and the Republic of Cyprus and between Turkey and Greece, following incidents involving the Turkish Navy in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the Greek territorial waters in the Aegean Sea, and, following an exchange of views, asked the Chairperson to write in this respect to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;
- **The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries** (*Rapporteur: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by a hearing with the participation of Mr Eugenio Dacrema, Research fellow Middle East and Northern Africa, Italian Institute for international political studies (ISPI);
- **Assessing political consequences of foreign funding of Islam in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Doris Fiala, Switzerland, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and considered an introductory memorandum;
- **The situation in Libya: prospects and role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Attila Korodi, Romania, EPP/CD*): approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Rabat from 5 to 8 February 2018;
- **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** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, took note of the reply of the Committee of Ministers to Recommendations 2113 and 2114 (2017) and decided to change the title to *Role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly: main challenges for the future*;

- **Appointment of Rapporteur:** appointed Mr Frithjof Schmidt (Germany, SOC) for report on *Democracy hacked? How to respond?* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised:
  - Mr Ervin Bushati (Albania, SOC), Rapporteur on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2018-2019*, to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network Meeting on Inclusive Growth (London, United Kingdom, 4-5 April 2018), subject to availability of funds;
  - Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), Rapporteur on *Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism*, to carry out fact-finding visits to Spain and the United Kingdom, subject to availability of funds;
- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
  - Sub-Committee on External Relations
    - Mr Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland, EPP/CD) becomes alternate of Ms Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter (EPP/CD),
  - Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD
    - Mr Andres Nick (Germany, EPP/CD) becomes full member instead of alternate to Ms Doris Barnett (SOC),
    - Ms Didem Engin (Turkey, SOC) becomes alternate to Mr Deniz Baykal (SOC), instead of Mr Cemalettin Kani Torun (EC);
- **Other business:** welcomed the invitation by Ms Sanja Putica, Chairperson of the Croatian delegation, to co-organise, in Dubrovnik, on 6 November 2018, a conference on *Building democratic security in the Mediterranean: Common challenges, Shared responsibility*, in the framework of the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);
- **Next meetings:**
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 23-27 April 2018
  - Athens, Greece, 22 May 2018
  - 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, 11 December 2018.

D. Chatzivassiliou, 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