



SECRETARIAT

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27 April 2018

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 23 to 25 April 2018

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 25 April 2018, with Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

#### **Monday 23 April 2018, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:**

- **Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations** (*Rapporteur: Mr Adão Silva, Portugal, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Marja Ruotanen, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Sport Values, Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe, and Mr Jiri Vogl, Head of the Department of Relations with International Organisations and Non-Member States, Directorate of External Relations of the Council of Europe;
- **Implementation of budgetary savings within the Assembly following the decisions by the Bureau**: held an exchange of views with Mr Wojciech Sawicki, Secretary General of the Assembly;

#### **Tuesday 24 April 2018, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:**

- **The situation in Libya: prospects and role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Attila Korodi, Romania, EPP/CD*): approved 2 amendments to the draft resolution proposed by the Rapporteur and asked its Chairperson to table them in the name of the Committee;
- **Funding of the terrorist group Daesh: lessons learned** (*Rapporteur: Mr Phil Wilson, United Kingdom, SOC*): took position on the 4 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Counter-narratives to terrorism** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered and approved an opinion, including 7 amendments to the draft resolution and 1 amendment to the draft recommendation;
- **Democracy hacked? How to respond?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Frithjof Schmidt, Germany, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;
- **The situation in Kosovo\*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Roca, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Chairperson on recent developments, followed by an exchange of views with the participation of the delegations of Serbia and of the Assembly of Kosovo;

\* 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.

– **Work programme:**

- took note of the declaration of absence of conflict of interest by Mr Ervin Bushati (Albania, SOC), Rapporteur on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2018-2019*,
- called for candidates for report on *Strengthening parliamentary dialogue with Algeria*, and took note that members may put forward their candidature until the appointment which will take place during the June 2018 part-session,
- further to the invitation from the Croatian Delegation to the Assembly, decided to set up an *ad hoc* sub-committee to participate in the conference on *Building democratic security in the Mediterranean: Common challenges, Shared responsibility*, to take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 6 November 2018, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly, and took note of a preliminary draft programme;
- decided to declassify the introductory memorandum (AS/Pol (2018) 04) by Ms Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE) on *Assessing political consequences of foreign funding of Islam in Europe*;

**Wednesday 25 April 2018, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:**

- **The situation in Libya: prospects and role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Attila Korodi, Romania, EPP/CD*): as regards the draft resolution, took position on 15 amendments, including 1 oral amendment, and approved 1 oral sub-amendment; as regards the draft recommendation, took position on 1 amendment;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2172 (2017) and Recommendation 2107 (2017) on The situation in Belarus** (*Former Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Andrei Naumovich, Head of Working group on the Death penalty issues, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human rights, national relations and media, House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus; Ms Alena Anisim, member of the Committee on Education, Culture and Science, House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus; and Ms Tatsiana Karatkevich, Chairperson of the Civic Campaign Tell the Truth;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: held an exchange of views on the recent Polish law amending the Act on the Institute of National Remembrance with the participation of Ms Aliza Lavie, Chairperson of the Israeli observer delegation to the Assembly, and Mr Józef Leśniak, member of the Polish delegation to the Assembly;
- **Request for extension of reference**: agreed to transmit to the Bureau of the Assembly a request for the extension of the reference on *Setting minimum standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections* until 24 December 2018;
- **Requests for visit authorisations**: approved the requests by:
  - Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries*, to carry out a fact-finding visit to Jordan, in June 2018, in the framework of the preparation of her report, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds,
  - Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations*, to carry out a fact-finding visit to the United Nations in New York, USA, in June 2018, in the framework of the preparation of his report, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds;
- **Other business**:
  - took note of the call for nominations for the 2018 Václav Havel Prize, and of the fact that the deadline for applications was 30 April 2018;

- decided to authorise the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend the meetings of the Committee throughout 2018;
- **Next meetings:** decided on forthcoming meetings as follows:
  - Athens, 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, 13 November 2018 (tbc)
  - Paris, 11 December 2018.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 24 April 2018 with Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **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;
- **The political transition in Egypt** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): did not take this item as the Rapporteur had suspended his activities within the Assembly, in light of the Report of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly and in line with the decision of the Bureau;
- **The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with the participation of the Jordanian partner for democracy delegation to the Assembly;
- **Future work:** tasked its Chairperson to write to the delegations of Israel, Palestine and Jordan in respect of a possible meeting in the region in September or October 2018;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene its next meeting.

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