To the members of the Standing Committee

Synopsis
of the meeting held in Sofia
on 27 November 2015

The Standing Committee, meeting on 27 November 2015 in Sofia, with Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Assembly, and then with Mr Michele Nicoletti, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

- heard a welcome address by Ms Tsetska Tsacheva, President of the National Assembly and held an exchange of views with Mr Daniel Mitov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers;

- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Turkey and referred the challenged credentials of the delegation of the United Kingdom to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs;

- approved changes in the composition of Assembly committees;

- took note of the preliminary draft agenda of the first part-session of the Assembly (25-29 January 2016);

- ratified the references proposed by the Bureau which are contained in the Appendix I hereafter;

- held a current affairs debate on “Combatting international terrorism while protecting Council of Europe standards and values”; 

- held an exchange of views with Mr Mykola Gnatovskyy, Chairperson of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), in which Mr Hristo Ivanov, Minister for Justice of Bulgaria, took part;

- adopted a declaration submitted by Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, Chairperson of the Bulgarian Delegation;

- took note of the reports of the Ad hoc Committees of the Bureau on the:
  “Observation of the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan (4 October 2015);
  “Observation of the presidential election in Belarus (11 October 2015);
  “Observation of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (1 November 2015);
  “Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Turkey (1 November 2015);

- adopted the following texts on behalf of the Assembly:
  Resolution 2083 (2015) Chinese migration to Europe: challenges and opportunities

Resolution 2084 (2015)  Promoting best practices in tackling violence against women

- decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on 4 March 2016.

Kateryna Gayevska

cc.  Secretary General of the Parliamentary 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
APPENDIX I

Decisions on documents tabled for references to committees

1. **Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members**
   - Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Rouquet and other members of the Assembly
   - Doc. 13885

   Reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs for report

2. **Co-operation with the International Criminal Court: towards a concrete and expanded commitment**
   - Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Destexhe and other members of the Assembly
   - Doc. 13888

   Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report

3. **Increased income inequalities are a threat to social cohesion**
   - Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
   - Doc. 13889

   Reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for report

4. **Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence**
   - Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Wurm and other members of the Assembly
   - Doc. 13890

   Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination for report and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons for opinion

5. **Gender equality and child maintenance**
   - Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Wurm and other members of the Assembly
   - Doc. 13892

   Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination for report and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for opinion

6. **Ongoing maternal care for children**
   - Motion for a resolution tabled by the Earl of Dundee and other members of the Assembly
   - Doc. 13894

   Transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for information

7. **Blacklisting of elected parliamentarians, counterproductive to parliamentary diplomacy**
   - Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kox and other members of the Assembly
   - Doc. 13902

   Reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Introduction of sanctions against parliamentarians” (Ref. 4051)

8. **25 years of the CPT, achievements and improvements needed**
   - Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Tiny KOX and other members of the Assembly
   - Doc. 13909

   Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report

9. **Draft Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production (revised)**
   - Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers
   - Doc. 13915

   Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media for report
10. Draft Protocol amending the European Landscape Convention (CETS No 176)
    Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers
    Doc. 13916

Reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*