



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2013) 9

4 September 2013

To the members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on 2 September 2013

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday, 2 September 2013 in Dubrovnik, with Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Follow-up to the third part-session of 2013 (Strasbourg, 24-28 June):**
 - . *Resolution 1941 (2013) on the Request for the opening of a monitoring procedure in respect of Hungary:* referred the question of the situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013) to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*;
- **Communication by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** took note of the communication;
- **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 27-29 November 2013):** took note of the suggestions from national delegations and members of the Bureau on the content of the draft programme of the Forum; decided to constitute an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum, to be composed of members proposed by all Assembly's committees, before the Bureau meeting on 4 October 2013;
- **Fourth part-session of 2013 (Strasbourg, 30 September – 4 October):** drew up the draft agenda;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** considered and approved the references as presented in the Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Election observation:**
 - . *Schedule of elections:* took note of the elections calendar 2013/2014 as presented in the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
 - . *Parliamentary elections in Albania (23 June 2013):* approved the final report of the ad hoc committee;
 - . *Presidential election in Azerbaijan (9 October 2013):* approved the updated composition of the ad hoc committee (see Appendix 2);
 - . *Presidential election in Georgia (27 October 2013):* approved the updated composition of the ad hoc committee (see Appendix 3);

- **Request by the Parliament of Jordan for the status of Partner for Democracy with the Assembly:** decided to refer the request to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*;
- **International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2013:** approved the Declaration, to be published in the framework of the International Day of Democracy (see Appendix 4);
- **2013 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe: call for nominations:** invited Bureau members to submit names of potential candidates for the 2013 North-South Prize;
- **Other business:**
 - . **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note that the three candidates shortlisted by the Selection Panel of the Prize at its meeting in Prague on 26 August 2013 are (in alphabetical order): Mr Ales Bialiatski (Belarus), the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (Georgia) and the Rights Defence Network (China);
 - . **Situation in Egypt:** approved a statement (see Appendix 5);
 - . **Situation in Syria:** approved a statement (see Appendix 6);
 - **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** nominated Mr Jonas Gunnarson (Sweden, SOC), on the basis of a proposal submitted by the Socialist Group, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
 - **Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities:** appointed Mr Zoran Vukčević (Montenegro, SOC) to participate in the Fall Meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to be held in Budva, Montenegro, on 13-15 October 2013;
 - **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** approved the following requests:
 - . **Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize** (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development): Tata, Hungary on 20 August 2013 and Altötting, Germany on 14 September 2013;
 - . **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on the reform of international football** (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media): Nyon, Switzerland on 9 September 2013;
 - . **Ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the Lisbon Forum** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy): Lisbon, Portugal on 6-7 November 2013;
 - . **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:** Lisbon, Portugal on 8 November 2013;
 - **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2014:** approved the dates for meetings in 2014 (see Appendix 7);
 - **Dates and places of next meetings:**
 - . Monday 30 September 2013, Strasbourg at 8 am;
 - . Friday 4 October 2013, Strasbourg at 8.30 am;
 - . Thursday 21 November 2013, Vienna at 2.30 pm;
 - . Monday 16 December 2013, Paris at 9.30 am.

Markus Adelsbach

cc.

Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors 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 1

REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

Doc. [13253](#), Motion for a resolution, Students and sport activities, to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for information*

Doc. [13254](#), Motion for a resolution, Young people preference for videogames and sports, to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for information*

Doc. [13255](#), Motion for a resolution, Serious setbacks in the fields of human rights and the rule of law in France, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for preparation of a written opinion in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Monitoring Committee*

Doc. [13256](#), Motion for a recommendation, Equality and inclusion for people with disabilities to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

Doc. [13257](#), Motion for a resolution, Discrimination against transgender people in Europe, to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

Doc. [13260](#), Motion for a resolution, Mandate of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, *no further action*

Doc. [13289](#), Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers, Draft Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*

APPENDIX 2

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE OBSERVATION OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN AZERBAIJAN

COMMISSION AD HOC POUR L'OBSERVATION
DE L'ELECTION PRESIDENTIELLE EN AZERBAÏDJAN

9 October / octobre 2013

List of members / Liste des membres

ROBERT WALTER* (EDG/GDE) UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI,
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION / CHEF DE LA DÉLÉGATION

GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP/CD)
GROUPE DU PARTI POPULAIRE EUROPEEN (PPE/DC)

VIOREL RICEARD BADEA
JEAN-MARIE BOCKEL
CHARLO BONNICI
AGUSTÍN CONDE
ŞABAN DIŞLI
AXEL E FISCHER
JOE O'REILLY
JOHN PAUL PHELAN
MARIETTA DE POURBAIX-LUNDIN*
YVES POZZO DI BORGO

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE
FRANCE
MALTA / MALTE
SPAIN / ESPAGNE
TURKEY / TURQUIE
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE
IRELAND / IRLANDE
IRELAND / IRLANDE
SWEDEN / SUÈDE
FRANCE

SUBSTITUTES

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ERICH GEORG FRITZ
JAN KAŻMIERCZAK
ALEKSANDAR NIKOLOSKI

LATVIA / LETTONIE
IRELAND / IRLANDE
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE
POLAND / POLOGNE
"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"/
"L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE"

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GROUPE SOCIALISTE (SOC)

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PHILIPPE BIES
PAOLO CORSINI
ANDREAS GROSS
JIM HOOD
TADEUSZ IWIŃSKI *
STEFAN SCHENNACH
JOUKO SKINNARI
YANAKI STOILOV
KOSTAS TRIANTAFYLLOS

SWEDEN / SUÈDE
FRANCE
ITALY / ITALIE
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI
POLAND / POLOGNE
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE
FINLAND / FINLANDE
BULGARIA / BULGARIE
GREECE / GRÈCE

SUBSTITUTES

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JEAN YVES LE DEAUT
VOLODYMYR PYLYPENKO
ALEKSANDRS SAKOVSKIS
THEODORA TZAKRI
ZORAN VUKČEVIĆ

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FRANCE
UKRAINE
LATVIA / LETTONIE
GREECE / GRÈCE
MONTÉNÉGRO / MONTENEGRO

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GROUPE DEMOCRATE EUROPEEN (GDE)**

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NADEZDA GERASIMOVA
OLGA KAZAKOVA

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RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE

SUBSTITUTES

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JAMES CLAPPISON
DAVID DAVIES

UKRAINE
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

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ALLIANCE DES DEMOCRATES ET DES LIBERAUX POUR L'EUROPE (ADLE)

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ALFRED HEER
JUDITH OEHRI
JORDI XUCLÀ *

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE
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BOGDAN TORCATORIU, ADMINISTRATOR, INTERPARLIAMENTARY CO-OPERATION AND ELECTION OBSERVATION UNIT
DANIELE GASTL, ASSISTANT, INTERPARLIAMENTARY CO-OPERATION AND ELECTION OBSERVATION UNIT

* PRE-ELECTORAL MISSION

APPENDIX 3

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE OBSERVATION OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN GEORGIA

COMMISSION AD HOC POUR L'OBSERVATION
DE L'ELECTION PRESIDENTIELLE EN GEORGIE

27 October / octobre 2013

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LOLITA CIGANE	LATVIA / LETTONIE
IRYNA GERASHCHENKO	UKRAINE
VALERIU GHILETCHI	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA
ANDRES HERKEL*	ESTONIA / ESTONIE
DENIS JACQUAT	FRANCE
INESE LIBINA-EGNERE	LATVIA / LETTONIE
THIERRY MARIANI	FRANCE
CEZAR FLORIN PREDĂ	ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

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MARIETTA DE POURBAIX LUNDIN	SWEDEN / SUÈDE
YVES POZZO DI BORGO	FRANCE

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FLORIN IORDACHE	ROMANIA / ROUMANIE
LUC RECORDON	SWITZERLAND / SUISSE
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* PRE-ELECTORAL MISSION

APPENDIX 4

International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2013

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Today many voices continue to be raised in alarm claiming that the world is not only facing a financial and economic crisis but that citizens' trust in democratic institutions is also in crisis, as evidenced by voter fatigue and a decline in the public image of politicians. Populist, radical or xenophobic political movements, protest votes and the emergence of hate speech are gaining ground. The increasing importance of supranational decision-making organisations such as WTO, EU, IMF, etc... reinforces the feeling of powerlessness of political institutions, in the context of an increasingly globalised economy, whereas democratic legitimacy remains at national level. Extremist parties grow in influence by providing populist, but easy to understand responses, based on a closure of borders, in the face of a complex reality and an uncertain future. Furthermore, democracy today is in a process of transformation, as it grapples with the new realities of a post-modern era where political parties are no longer the only vehicles for citizens' participation in political life. Social networks and civil society highlight new emerging challenges.

In this regard, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe welcomes the 2013 Day of Democracy's focus on strengthening voices for democracy. It urges national parliaments to adapt to societal and technological developments and improve communication channels with the public. Through Internet, social networks, parliamentary television channels and/or civil society associations, parliaments can improve contact with the younger generations. Parliaments should also promote new ways for the people to express their views, beyond the traditional forms of mandate and delegation: the setting up of participatory and deliberative processes and structures, transnational networks formed by citizens to address specific issues, citizenship education and political training can be useful tools. Improving the transparency of rules of financing political parties and campaigns and bringing corrupt politicians and officials to justice would restore public trust in parliaments. A greater inclusion of women, youth and minorities would reinforce their representativeness and credibility.

The Parliamentary Assembly firmly believes that the Council of Europe is in a unique position to bridge the confidence gap and bring together elected politicians with civil society leaders. Together, they could better find ways to enable representative democracy face current societal and technological challenges, such as those raised by the social media. In this context, it wishes to highlight particularly the forthcoming World Forum for Democracy organised by the Council of Europe which is this year entitled "Re-wiring Democracy: connecting institutions and citizens in the digital age" (Strasbourg, 27-29 November 2013). The Forum will provide a timely platform for a genuine, inclusive dialogue on change and the future of democracy and help to shape future action by the Organisation, its institutions and member States.

APPENDIX 5

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly on Egypt

Strasbourg, 02.09.2013 – The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting today in Dubrovnik (Croatia), called for an inclusive reconciliation process and political dialogue in Egypt which would prevent any further recourse to violence, allow a return to stability and create conditions for the organisation of free and fair elections as soon as possible. A military intervention is not a solution for democratic deficits. The interim authorities should implement without delay a roadmap for the normalisation of the political climate in the country and for the restoration of democratic rule in Egypt.

Shocked by the number of deaths caused by the intervention of the police in dispersing pro-Morsi gatherings, but also concerned about acts of violence committed by demonstrators, including attacks against religious minorities' places of worship, the Bureau called for an independent investigation into the killings and all acts of violence, whoever has committed them.

The Assembly, through its Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, is following closely the situation in Egypt. The Committee will hold a hearing on Egypt at its meeting on 4 September 2013 in Paris.

APPENDIX 6

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly on Syria

Strasbourg, 02.09.2013 - The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting today in Dubrovnik (Croatia), condemned the apparent use of chemical weapons in Syria which, on 21 August 2013, caused the death of hundreds of people, including a large number of children. Any use of chemical weapons anywhere by anybody, under any circumstances, constitutes a violation of international law and a crime against humanity. The Bureau calls on the international community to take action to pressurise those countries which have not yet done so to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention. It also calls for urgent action to bring the stocks of chemical weapons in Syria under international control to prevent access to them by those supporting or opposing the current Government.

The Bureau recalls that in its Resolutions 1878 (2012) on the situation in Syria and 1902 (2012) on the European response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, the Assembly urged a political solution to the conflict in Syria. Today, more than a year and a half later, the escalation of violence makes the need for a diplomatic process more urgent than ever. All parties concerned, both inside and outside the country, should, without further delay, move beyond their differences towards a peace conference on Syria. The use of arms can never lead to sustainable peace and is therefore not an option; only a political solution can put an end to the spiral of violence, but also to the dramatic situation of refugees and displaced persons.

The Bureau of the Assembly is particularly appalled by the huge number of refugees, especially of children, forced to flee Syria which, according to UN estimates, has reached one million. It urges once more the provision of unhindered humanitarian assistance to the wounded, refugees, displaced persons and all those in need both in Syria and in the neighbouring countries.

APPENDIX 7

Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2014**Preliminary proposals for dates¹**

Monday 27 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 31 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 6 March, 3.00 pm, Paris	Bureau
Friday 7 March, 9.00 am, Paris (to be confirmed)	Standing Committee
Monday 7 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 11 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 22 May, Baku, Azerbaijan	Bureau
Friday 23 May, Baku, Azerbaijan	Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 23 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 27 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 1 September, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 29 September, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 3 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
November, Brussels, Belgium (date to be confirmed)	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 15 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau

¹ Dates of meetings due to be held elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris are subject to the conclusion of a formal agreement with the Parliament of the country concerned.