



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2016) 01

25 January 2016

## To the Members of the Assembly

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 25 January 2016

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 25 January 2016 in Strasbourg, with Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of communications by the President, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **First part-session of 2016 (Strasbourg, 25-29 January):**
  - i. *Credentials of the Russian delegation for the Ordinary Session 2016:* took note of the letter of 18 January jointly signed by Ms Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Council of the Federation, and Mr Sergey Naryshkin, Chairperson of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, explaining that the Russian parliament would not submit the credentials of a delegation, as well as of the reply by Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Assembly;
  - ii. *Requests for debates under urgent procedure and current affairs debate:*
    - should the Assembly decide to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *Combating international terrorism while protecting Council of Europe standards and values*, decided to refer the matter for opinion to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights as well as to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination;
    - decided to propose to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland*, and to refer this matter to the Monitoring Committee for report;
    - decided not to propose to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *The Protection of Women and the honest reporting of unpalatable truths*;
    - decided to propose to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on *Recent attacks against women in European cities – the need for a comprehensive response*, and appointed Sir Roger Gale as the first speaker;
  - iii. *Draft agenda:* updated the draft agenda;
  - iv. *Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Cyprus:* took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on the election of judges following interviews with candidates for the post of a judge in respect of Cyprus;
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (2 October 2015 to 24 January 2016)** (Rapporteur: Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE)): approved the Progress report;
- **Election observation:**
  - i. *Armenia: referendum on constitutional reforms (6 December 2015):* took note of the memorandum by the Chairperson of the ad hoc committee, to be submitted to the Assembly through the addendum to the Progress report;

- ii. *Kazakhstan: early parliamentary elections (20 March 2016)*: took note that the Assembly had been invited to observe the early parliamentary elections, decided to observe them and constituted an ad hoc committee to this end composed of 11 members (EPP/CD: 3; SOC: 3; ALDE: 2, EC: 2 and UEL: 1 - in accordance with the D'Hondt system) and of the rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on *The relations of Council of Europe with Kazakhstan*, Mr Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD);
- iii. *"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia": early parliamentary elections (24 April 2016, to be confirmed)*: approved the composition of the ad hoc committee and appointed Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) as its Chairperson (Appendix 2);
- iv. *Meeting of the Chairpersons of ad hoc committees for the observation of elections, 27 January 2016*: took note of the draft agenda;
- v. *Schedule of elections in 2016*: took note of the calendar of elections;
- **References and transmissions to committees**: considered and approved the references as presented in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the addendum to the Progress report;
- **Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2016**: took note of the list of candidates (Appendix 3);
- **Resolution 1376 (2004) relating to Cyprus**: took note of the letters from the two Turkish Cypriot political parties informing the President of the Assembly of the names of the "elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community" entitled to sit in the Assembly in 2016, namely Mr Özdemir Berova and Mr Mehmet Çaglar;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee, the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs and the Committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights**: on the basis of proposals by the political groups, nominated members of these three committees and decided to submit them to the Assembly for ratification (Commissions (2016) 01);
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris**: authorised:
  - the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter (Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) to meet in Turin, Italy, on 17-18 March 2016;
  - the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to meet in Tbilisi on 21-22 March 2016;
  - the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in Reykjavik on 26 September 2016.
- **Date and place of next meeting**:

Friday 29 January 2016, Strasbourg, at 8.30 am.

Sonia Sirtori, Ivi-Triin Odrats

---

Copy to:

Secretary General of the 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 1**

### **References and transmissions to committees**

#### **A. References to committees**

Doc. [13927](#), motion for a recommendation, Genetically engineered human beings, reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;

Bureau decision, The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017, reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*.

#### **B. Modification of a reference**

Doc. [13569](#), motion for a resolution, Drafting social indicators and issuing an annual report on social rights (Ref. 4077 of 3 October 2014 – validity: 3 October 2016), reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion*.

#### **C. Extension of a reference**

Bureau decision, The nature of the mandate of members of the Parliamentary Assembly (Ref. 4018 of 27 January 2014 – validity: 27 January 2016): extension until 31 December 2016.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Ad hoc committee for the observation of the early parliamentary elections in “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (24 April 2016, to be confirmed) – list of members**

**Chairperson:** Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC)

#### **Group of the European People’s Party (EPP/CD)**

Viorel Riceard BADEA, Romania  
David BAKRADZE, Georgia  
Elena CENTEMERO, Italy  
Iryna GERASHCHENKO, Ukraine  
Denis JACQUAT, France  
Frank J. JENSSEN, Norway\*  
Inese LĪBIŅA-EGNERE, Latvia  
Joe O’REILLY, Ireland  
Yves POZZO di BORGIO, France  
Attila TILKI, Hungary

#### **Substitutes**

...

#### **Socialist Group (SOC)**

Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria\*  
Marit MAJ, Netherlands  
Josette DURRIEU, France  
Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro  
Maryvonne BLONDIN, France  
Mogens JENSEN, Denmark  
Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### **Substitutes**

...

#### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)**

Doris FIALA, Switzerland\*  
Eerik-Niiles KROSS, Estonia

#### **Substitutes**

Carles JORDANA MADERO, Andorra  
Hendrik DAEMS, Belgium  
Alain DESTEXHE, Belgium  
Andrea RIGONI, Italy

#### **European Conservatives Group (EC)**

Tom PACKALÉN, Finland\*  
Dominik TARCZYNSKI, Poland

#### **Substitutes**

Mark PRITCHARD, United Kingdom  
Ingebjørg GODSKESEN, Norway  
Daniel MILEWSKI, Poland  
Iwona ARENT, Poland

#### **Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)**

Ioanneta KAVVADIA, Greece

#### **Substitutes**

Andrej HUNKO, Germany

**Rapporteurs AS/MON (*ex officio*)**

Lise CHRISTOFFERSEN, Norway\*

Valeriu GHILETCHI, Republic of Moldova\*

**Secretariat**

...

\* members of the pre-election delegation

**Appendix 3****Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2016**

<b>GROUPS /GROUPE</b>	<b>COUNTRY / PAYS</b>	<b>CANDIDATES / CANDIDATS</b>
GROUP I / GROUPE I	France	<b>M. René Rouquet</b>
	Germany / Allemagne	<b>Mr Axel E. Fischer</b>
	Italy / Italie	<b>Ms Adele Gambaro</b>
	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie	
	Turkey / Turquie	<b>Mr Talip Küçükcan</b>
	United Kingdom / Royaume- Uni	<b>Mr Roger Gale</b>
GROUP II / GROUPE II	Poland / Pologne	<b>Mr Włodzimierz Bernacki</b>
	Spain / Espagne	
GROUP III / GROUPE III	Denmark / Danemark	<b>Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen</b>
	Finlande / Finlande	<b>Ms Maria Guzenina</b>
	Georgia / Géorgie	<b>Mr Tedo Japaridze</b>
	Greece / Grèce	<b>Ms Anneta Kavvadia</b>
	Hungary / Hongrie	<b>Mr Zsolt Németh</b>
	Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova	<b>Ms Liliana Palihovici</b>
	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	<b>Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten</b>
	Norway / Norvège	<b>Ms Ingjerd Schou</b>
GROUP IV / GROUPE IV	"The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia" / "L'ex-Rép. yougoslave de Macédoine"	<b>Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski</b>
	Albania / Albanie	<b>Ms Valentina Leskaj</b>
	Andorra / Andorre	<b>Ms Meritxell Mateu</b>
	Armenia / Arménie	<b>Ms Hermine Naghdalyan</b>