



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2016) 04

18 April 2016

To the Members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 18 April 2016

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 18 April 2016 in Strasbourg, with Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Second part-session of 2016 (Strasbourg, 18-22 April):**
 - i. *Requests for a current affairs debate:*
 - considered the following requests for current affairs debate:
 - o *The recent and tragic escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict*, tabled by Mr René Rouquet, Chairperson of the French delegation, on behalf of his delegation;
 - o *The tragic escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan*, tabled by Mr Samad Seyidov, Chairperson of the Azerbaijani delegation, on behalf of his delegation;
 - o *War crimes committed by Azerbaijan during the recent aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh*, tabled by Ms Hermine Naghdalyan, Chairperson of the Armenian delegation, on behalf of her delegation;
 - o *The case of the "Panama Papers" and the concern about fiscal, social justice and public trust in our democratic system* tabled by Mr Michele Nicoletti, on behalf of the Socialist Group;
 - decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on *The case of the "Panama Papers" and the concern about fiscal, social justice and public trust in our democratic system* on Monday 18 April in the afternoon and designated Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) as the first speaker;
 - ii. *Requests for debates under urgent procedure:*
 - took note of the President's decision to declare inadmissible a request for a debate under urgent procedure on *The Savchenko case*, tabled by 21 members of the Assembly, on the grounds that it concerned an issue which was already on the agenda of the part-session; and invited the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to prepare an addendum to the report on *The humanitarian concerns with regard to people captured during the war in Ukraine* (Rapporteur: Ms Nellija Kleinberga, Latvia, ALDE);
 - decided to propose to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *The situation of refugees and migrants under the EU-Turkey Agreement of 18 March 2016* on Wednesday 20 April in the afternoon, and referred the matter to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons for report;

- decided to propose to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *After the Brussels attacks, urgent need to address security failures and step up counter-terrorism co-operation* on Thursday 21 April in the afternoon, and referred the matter to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for report;
- iii. *Draft agenda*: took note of a letter by the Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons informing about a PowerPoint presentation to be shown during the Assembly debate on *The humanitarian concerns with regard to people during the war in Ukraine*, and updated the draft agenda;
- iv. *Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Slovenia*: 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 Slovenia;
- **Standing Committee (Paris, 4 March 2016)**: approved the proposal made by the Secretary General of the Assembly to ask the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to draft guidelines on the implementation of paragraph 2.3.1 of Resolution 2102 (2016) on Modifications to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee (30 January – 18 April 2016)** (Rapporteur: Ms Ioanneta Kavvadia, Greece, UEL): approved the Progress report;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - i. *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*: authorised Mr Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan in May/June 2016, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan*;
 - ii. *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*: took note of a letter by the Chairperson of the Committee, asking for the authorisation of an appropriate visit to Greece which would ensure a follow up to the recent EU/Turkey agreement on migration;
- **Composition of committees:**
 - i. *Composition of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs*: on the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, nominated Mr Volodymyr Arieu (Ukraine) to replace Mr Serhiy Sobolev (Ukraine);
 - ii. *Composition of the Committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights*: on the basis of proposals by the Socialist Group, nominated Ms Marietta Karamanli (France) to replace Mr Michael McNamara (Ireland) and Mr Evangelos Venizelos (Greece) as members and Ms Ingrid Antičević Marinović (Croatia) as an alternate;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris**: authorised the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to meet in Rome, on 17-18 May 2016;
- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau on the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Greece**: subject to receiving an invitation by the Greek authorities, decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau on the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Greece and to consider its composition and terms of reference at its next meeting;

- **Date and place of next meeting:**

Friday, 22 April 2016, Strasbourg at 8.30 am.

Sonia Sirtori, Angela Garabagiu

Copy to:

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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
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