



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2017) 01

23 January 2017

To the Members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 23 January 2017

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 23 January 2017 in Strasbourg, with Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note:
 - i. of the communications by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - ii. of the letter from the Chair of the Swiss Delegation concerning the allegations of corruption in the Assembly, and decided to submit it to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to be taken into account in the preparation of the report by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom, EC) on *Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members*, and asked the Committee to look at the matter in co-operation with the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO);
- **First part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 23-27 January):**
 - i. *Requests for debates under urgent procedure:*
 - took note of the requests tabled by the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *The functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey*; following a vote, decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold such a debate;
 - took note of a request tabled by the EC Group for the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *The need to reform European migration policies*; decided to recommend that the Assembly hold such a debate and proposed to refer the matter to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons for report;
 - ii. *Request for a current affairs debate:* took note of a request tabled by Sir Roger Gale on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation for the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on *The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries*; decided to recommend that the Assembly hold such a debate and designated Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) as the first speaker;
 - iii. *Draft agenda:* updated the draft agenda of the part-session;
 - iv. *Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:* took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on the election of judges following interviews with candidates for the posts of judges in respect of Hungary and the Netherlands;

- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (14 October 2016 to 22 January 2017)** (Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC): approved the Progress report;
- **Election observation:**
 - i. *Bulgaria: presidential election (6 and 13 November 2016)*: approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
 - ii. *"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia": early parliamentary elections (11 December 2016)*: approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
 - iii. *Meeting of the Chairpersons of ad hoc committees for the observation of elections, 25 January 2017*: took note of the draft agenda;
 - iv. *Armenia: parliamentary elections (2 April 2017)*: took note of the invitation letter; decided to observe these elections and constituted an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 30 members (EPP/CD: 11; SOC: 10, ALDE: 4, EC: 4, UEL: 1 - in accordance with the D'Hondt system) as well as of the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee; and authorised a pre-electoral mission;
 - v. *Serbia: presidential election (April 2017, date to be confirmed)*: subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe this election and constituted an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 20 members (EPP/CD: 7; SOC: 6, ALDE: 3, EC: 3, UEL: 1 - in accordance with the D'Hondt system) as well as of the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee; and authorised a pre-electoral mission;
- **References and transmissions to committees**: considered and approved the references and transmissions as presented in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the Progress report;
- **Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2017**: took note of the list of candidates for Vice-Presidents of the Assembly (Appendix 2);
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - i. *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*: authorised Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), Rapporteur on the *Situation in Belarus*, to carry out a fact-finding visit to Minsk, Belarus, in the first half of 2017, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
- **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 2017, namely Mr Erdal Özçenk and Mr Mehmet Çağlar, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the Progress report;
- **Resolution 2094 (2016) on the situation in Kosovo^{*} and the role of the Council of Europe**: took note of the letter by the President of the Assembly of Kosovo informing the President of the Assembly of the names of the members of the delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo for the ordinary session of 2017, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the Progress report:

Members:

- Mr Xhavit HALITI, Democratic Parti of Kosovo (PDK), Head of delegation (majority)
- Ms Aida DËRGUTI, Movement for Self-Determination (opposition)
- Mr Slobodan PETROVIĆ, Independent Liberal Party (Serb list) (minority)

Substitutes:

- Mr Ismet BEQIRI, Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), substitute for Mr Haliti (majority)
- Mr Pal LESKAJ, Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK), substitute for Ms Dërguti (opposition)
- Ms Mufera SINIK, Kosovo Turkish Democratic Party (KDTP), substitute for Mr Petrović (minority)

* 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.

- **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 (2017) 01);

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

Friday 27 January 2017, Strasbourg, at 8.30 am.

Sonia Sirtori, Angela Garabagiu

Copie aux :

Secrétaire Général de l'Assemblée parlementaire
Directeur Général, Directeur et agents du Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire
Secrétaires des délégations nationales et des groupes politiques de l'Assemblée
Secrétaires des délégations d'observateurs et de partenaires pour la démocratie
Secrétaire Général du Congrès
Secrétaire du Comité des Ministres
Directeurs Généraux
Directeur de Cabinet du Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe
Directeur du bureau du Commissaire aux droits de l'homme
Directeur de la Communication
Représentations Permanentes auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Appendix 1

References and transmissions to committees

A. References and transmissions to committees

[Doc. 14189](#), motion for a resolution, Implementation of OECD recommendations: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017”*;

[Doc. 14210](#), motion for a resolution, Media freedom as a condition for democratic elections: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion*;

[Doc. 14212](#), motion for a resolution, The role of national authorities in successful decentralisation processes: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;

[Doc. 14218](#), motion for a resolution, Strengthening the link between popular sports events and cultural heritage: consultation of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *on possible follow-up*;

Bureau decision, Budget and priorities of the Council of Europe for the biennium 2018-2019: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*;

Bureau decision, Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium 2018-2019: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*.

B. Extension of a reference

Bureau decision, Political transition in Tunisia (Reference 3889 of 29 June 2012): extension until 30 June 2017.

Appendix 2

Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2017

GROUPS	COUNTRY	CANDIDATES
GROUP I	France	Mr René ROUQUET
	Germany	Mr Axel E. FISCHER
	Italy	Ms Adele GAMBARO
	Russian Federation	
	Turkey	Mr Talip KÜÇÜKCAN
	United Kingdom	Sir Roger GALE
GROUP II	Spain	Mr Antonio GUTIÉRREZ
	Ukraine	Mr Georgii LOGVYNSKYI
GROUP III	Hungary	Mr Zsolt NEMETH
	Republic of Moldova	Vacant seat
	Netherlands	Ms Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN
	Norway	Ms Ingjerd SCHOU
	Portugal	Ms Ana Catarina MENDES
	Romania	Vacant seat
	Serbia	Ms Aleksandra DJUROVIĆ
	Slovak Republic	Mr Robert MADEJ
GROUP IV	Andorra	Mr Carles JORDANA
	Armenia	Ms Hermine NAGHDALYAN
	Cyprus	Mr George LOUCAIDES
	Estonia	Ms Marianne MIKKO