



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2017) 12

28 November 2017

To the Members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Copenhagen on 23 November 2017

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 23 November 2017 in Copenhagen with Ms Stella Kyriakides, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communication:** took note of the communication by the President;
- **Meeting of the Standing Committee (Copenhagen, 24 November 2017):**
 - i. *Requests for a current affairs debate:*
 - took note of the two requests which had been tabled, namely:
 - by Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) and Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC), in their respective capacity as Chairpersons of the UEL and the SOC groups, on behalf of their groups, for the Standing Committee to hold a current affairs debate on *Defending the acquis of the Council of Europe: the role of the Parliamentary Assembly. Follow-up to Resolution 2186 (2017) and Recommendations 2113 (2017) and 2114 (2017)*;
 - by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), in his capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the EPP/CD group, on behalf of his group, for the Standing Committee to hold a current affairs debate on *Democracy hacked. How to respond?*;
 - following a vote, decided to recommend that the Standing Committee hold a current affairs debate on *Defending the acquis of the Council of Europe: the role of the Parliamentary Assembly. Follow-up to Resolution 2186 (2017) and Recommendations 2113 (2017) and 2114 (2017)*, and appointed Mr Michele Nicoletti as the first speaker;
 - should the Standing Committee decide to hold the current affairs debate on *Democracy hacked. How to respond?*, appointed Mr Emanuelis Zingeris as the first speaker;
 - ii. *Draft agenda:* took note of the draft agenda;
- **First part-session of 2018 (Strasbourg, 22-26 January):** updated the preliminary draft agenda;
- **Election observation:**
 - i. *Presidential election in Kyrgyzstan:* approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
 - ii. *Schedule of elections for 2018:* took note of the document;

iii. *Participation of non-registered members in election observation:*

- took note of a letter by Ms Nicole Trisse (France, NR);
- decided to ask the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to consider the issue of rights of non-registered (not belonging to any political group) members of the Assembly in the framework of the ongoing report on *Amending Rule 19 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure on political groups* (Rapporteur: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD);
- decided to return to the matter of participation of non-registered members of the Assembly in election observation missions in the framework of the ongoing revision of *Guidelines on election observation*;
- **Procedure for considering motions for resolutions and recommendations and its possible improvement:**
 - took note of the memorandum by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
 - referred the matter to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the proposals contained in the document as presented in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
- **Honorary President:** decided to grant the title of Honorary President to Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Assembly 2012-2014;
- **Independent external investigation body on the allegations of corruption within the Assembly:**
 - took note of the letters by Sir Nicolas Bratza, President of the independent external investigation body;
 - decided to extend the terms of reference of the independent external investigation body until 15 April 2018;
 - took note of the decision of the Secretary General of the Assembly to ask the Committee of Ministers to transfer 20,000 euro from the Assembly budget to the special account of the investigation body;
- **Calendar for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe:**
 - took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
 - approved the new calendar for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Appendix 2), subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;
- **Acknowledgement of a new political group (Free Democrats Group):**
 - took note of the memorandum and the conclusions provided by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary General of the Assembly as regards the authenticity of the signatures and the validity of the consent of the members of the FDG group who had resigned from the EC group;
 - confirmed that the numbers of members in political groups of the Assembly on 30 June 2017 were the following: EPP/CD: 181; SOC: 174; EC: 88; ALDE: 67; UEL: 34;
 - decided to close the discussion concerning the establishment of the FDG group;

- **Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members:**
 - took note of the memorandum by Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, setting out the content and format of declaratory requirements;
 - asked the Committee to reconsider its decision concerning declaratory requirements of financial interests;
 - took note of the memorandum by the Secretary General of the Assembly setting out the model sworn declaration for honorary associates and Honorary Presidents of the Assembly to be sent to former members of the Assembly holding the title of honorary associate of the Parliamentary Assembly or Honorary President of the Assembly, in line with the Assembly's decision;
 - set a deadline of six months for the former members of the Assembly concerned to return their signed sworn declaration;
 - decided that, at the expiry of this deadline, failure to make a declaration or a refusal to sign such a declaration will *ipso facto* lead to the withdrawal of the title of honorary associate/Honorary President;
- **Outgoing President: interpretation of Rule 20.3 of the Parliamentary Assembly's Rules of Procedure:**
 - took note of the interpretation provided by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, according to which '*only a President who has been duly elected by the Assembly can be considered to be an outgoing President of the Assembly*';
 - decided to ask the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to prepare a report on *Amending Rule 20.3 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure on the status of the immediate past President of the Assembly*;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:**
 - on the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, nominated Ms Arpine Hovhannisyan (Armenia) and Ms Aleksandra Tomić (Serbia), subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
 - on the basis of a proposal by the SOC Group, nominated Ms Angela Smith (United Kingdom), instead of Dame Rosie Winterton (United Kingdom), subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to meet in Copenhagen on 1-2 March 2018;
- **Other business**
 - i. *Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (13 October 2017 – 21 January 2018)*: appointed Ms Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) as rapporteur;
 - ii. *Presidential Committee:*
 - took note of the decision of the Presidential Committee to invite four representatives of the Russian Parliament to an exchange of views on the recent report of Mr Michele Nicoletti and the texts adopted by the Assembly on *Call for a Council of Europe Summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe (Resolution 2186 (2017) and Recommendation 2113 (2017))*;
 - took note that this exchange of views would take place in Paris on 14 December 2017;

iii. *Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights*: was informed of the list of candidates transmitted to the Assembly by the Ministers' Deputies, consisting of:

- Mr Goran Klemenčič (presented by Slovenia);
- Mr Pierre-Yves Le Borgn' (presented by France);
- Ms Dunja Mijatović (presented by Bosnia and Herzegovina);

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

Friday 15 December 2017, Paris, 9 am;
Monday 22 January 2018, Strasbourg, 8 am;
Friday 26 January 2018, Strasbourg, 8.30 am.

Sonia Sirtori, Angela Garabagiu

Copy to:

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 1

A. References and transmissions to committees

[Doc. 14413](#), motion for a resolution, A legal status for "climate refugees": reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

[Doc. 14417](#), motion for a resolution, Missing refugee and migrant children in Europe: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

[Doc. 14439](#), motion for a resolution, New challenges in the fight against organised crime and money laundering – the need to improve international co-operation: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

[Doc. 14440](#), motion for a resolution, Sergei Magnitsky and beyond – fighting impunity by targeted sanctions: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

Bureau decision, Amending Rule 20.3 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure on the status of the immediate past President of the Assembly: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

Bureau decision, Procedure for considering motions for resolutions and recommendations and its possible improvement: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

B. Modification of references

[Doc. 14295](#), motion for a resolution, Sergei Magnitsky and beyond – fighting impunity by targeted sanctions (Ref. 4294 of 30 May 2017): *no further action*

[Doc. 14308](#), motion for a resolution, Endocrine disrupting chemicals in water (Ref. 4899 of 30 June 2017): *no further action*

[Doc. 14311](#), motion for a resolution, Enhancing co-operation between Council of Europe member States to meet new challenges in the fight against organised crime and money laundering (Ref. 4302 of 30 June 2017): *no further action*

C. Reply after consultation

[Doc. 14218](#), motion for a resolution, Strengthening the link between popular sports events and cultural heritage: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

D. Extension of references

[Doc. 13620](#), motion for a resolution, Effective representation and participation in the Parliamentary Assembly of opposition parliamentarians in the member States (Ref. 4091 of 17 November 2014 – validity: 30 November 2017): *extension until 30 June 2018*

Appendix 2 - New calendar for the election of the Secretary General

For a mandate beginning on 1 October of year n:

- September n-1: after informal discussions between the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Chair of the Committee of Ministers (CM). PACE, through its Bureau, confirms the date of the election (June of year n);
- October n-1: the CM fixes the timetable and calls for candidatures to be received before 10 January n. The Chair of the CM writes to his/her colleagues asking for suitable candidates and drawing attention to the "Juncker criteria" and to the gender equality aspects;
- 10 January n: deadline for member states to propose candidates;
- January n: consultation with PACE through the Joint Committee on all proposed candidates;
- March n: interviews of candidates by CM, drawing up of the recommendation and subsequent transmission to PACE;
- Before June n: interviews by the Assembly of the candidates included in the recommendation;
- June n: election by PACE;
- 1 October n: start of the mandate of the new Secretary General.

If only one candidate appears in the recommendation:

- a discussion during the April n PACE part-session to seek agreement in the Joint Committee on the submission of only one candidate in the CM recommendation;
- if agreement is reached in the Joint Committee, subsequent transmission of recommendation to PACE;
- June n: interviews and election by PACE;
- 1 October n: start of the mandate of the new Secretary General.

If the CM considers that no candidates are suitable to appear in the recommendation or if no agreement is reached in the Joint Committee on the submission of only one candidature in the recommendation:

- April n: renewed call for candidates within a deadline of maximum six weeks;
- June n: new consultation in Joint Committee on candidatures proposed by member states,
- July n: interview of candidatures by CM, drawing up of the recommendation and subsequent transmission to PACE;
- End September/October n: interviews and election by PACE;
- 1 October or no later than three weeks after the day of election by PACE: start of the mandate of the new Secretary General.