



SECRETARIAT

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30 March 2016

To the members of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Revised synopsis of the meeting held in Tbilisi (Georgia) on 21 and 22 March 2016

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Tbilisi (Georgia) with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) in the Chair,

- **on Monday, 21 March 2016 at 9.30 a.m.**, as regards:
 - **Exchange of views with the authorities of Georgia:** heard a statement by Mr Zviad Dzidziguri, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Mr Sozar Subari, Minister for IDPs, Accommodation and Refugees and Mr Paata Zakareishvili, State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality;
 - **Migration challenges in the South Caucasus and the region:** held a hearing with the participation of Mr Dennis Sammut, Executive Director of LINKS (Dialogue-Analysis-Research), London, Mr Hy Shelow, Representative *a.i.* of the UNHCR in Georgia and Ms Natia Katsitadze, Deputy Public Defender of Georgia;
- **on Monday, 21 March 2016 at 2.30 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **Visit to the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL):** visited the ABL and heard explanations by representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia;
 - **Visit to the IDPs settlement of Tserovani:** visited the IDPs settlement of Tserovani and heard explanations by the Director of the settlement and Mr Grigol Giorgadze, First Deputy Minister, Ministry for IDPs, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia;
- **on Tuesday, 22 March 2016 at 9.30 a.m.**, as regards:
 - **Statement by the Chair:** expressed its shock at the terrorist attacks in Brussels and its solidarity with the victims; decided that two topics deserved a debate under urgent procedure at the 2nd part of the 2016 Ordinary Session: “The protection of missing refugee children in Europe” and “The situation of refugees and migrants under the EU/Turkey agreement”; mandated the Chair to follow developments and to decide which request for a debate under urgent procedure to submit to the Bureau, in the light of the evolution of the situation closer to the session; appointed Mr Manlio Di Stefano (Italy, NR) and Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) respectively as rapporteurs on these two issues, subject to the Assembly’s decision on debates under urgent procedure; decided to hold a joint hearing during the April part-session with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development on “Missing unaccompanied migrant children”; decided to ask the Bureau to authorise the Committee to organise an appropriate information visit to Greece as a follow-up to the recent EU/Turkey agreement on migration;

- **Violence against migrants** (Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Human rights of refugees and migrants – the situation in the Western Balkans** (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **A stronger European response to the Syrian refugee crisis** (Rapporteur: Ms Annette Groth, Germany, UEL): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Jordan and Lebanon (7-13 February 2016), considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **The humanitarian concerns with regard to people captured during the war in Ukraine** (Rapporteur: Ms Nellija Kleinberga, Latvia, ALDE): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation as amended; expressed its serious concern at Ms Nadiya Savchenko's conviction and sentencing to 22 years in prison; heard a statement by the Rapporteur on this subject; decided to request the Bureau's authorisation to show during the Assembly debate at the 2nd part of the 2016 Ordinary Session the PowerPoint presentation on the subject previously shown to the Committee;
- **Population situation in Georgia**: heard a statement by Mr Tengiz Tsekvava, Deputy Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) and held an exchange of views;
- **The humanitarian crisis in Gaza** (Rapporteur: Ms Eva-Lena Jansson, Sweden, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Possible ways to improve the emergency refugee situations funding** (Rapporteur: Mr Cezar Florin Preda, Romania, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Ukraine**: considered and adopted a draft motion for a resolution on the above-mentioned topic, to be tabled on behalf the Committee;
- **Follow-up to the Conference on "A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe" (Paris, 16 December 2015)**: considered and adopted a draft motion for a recommendation on the above-mentioned topic, to be tabled on behalf the Committee;
- **Appointments of rapporteurs for reports:**
 - Harmonising the protection of unaccompanied minors in Europe**: appointed Mr Manlio Di Stefano (Italy, NR) and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - Integration of refugees in times of critical pressure: learning from recent experience and examples of best practices**: postponed the appointment of a rapporteur on this topic to the next meeting;
 - How to encourage the migration of international students across Europe**: appointed Alexander [The Earl of] Dundee (United Kingdom, EC), subject to a declaration of absence of conflict of interest to the next meeting;
- **Appointment of a rapporteur for an opinion:**
 - Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence**: appointed Ms Petra De Sutter (Belgium, SOC) and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Representation of the Committee at various events:**
 - High-Level Conference on "Reaching the heights for the rights of the Child" organised by the Council of Europe, 5-6 April 2016, Sofia, Bulgaria: appointed Mr Manlio Di Stefano (Italy, NR), subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly;

Lab on “An EU fit for purpose?” organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), 25-26 February 2016, Brussels, Belgium: heard a statement by Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC);

– **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:

Sub-Committee on Integration

- Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) to become a titular member
- Ms Serap Yaşar (Turkey, EC) to become a titular member

Sub-Committee on Population

- Mr Erkan Kandemir (Turkey, EC) to become a titular member

Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit

- Ms Annette Groth (Germany, UEL) to become a titular member
- Mr Ibrahim Mustafa Turhan (Turkey, EC) to become a titular member

– **Next meetings:**

- **Strasbourg**, during the 2nd part-session 2016 (18-22 April)
- **Paris**, 3 June 2016
- **Strasbourg**, during the 3rd part-session 2016 (20-24 June)
- **Paris**, 22 September 2016
- **Strasbourg**, during the 4th part-session 2016 (10-14 October)
- **Paris**, 7 December 2016

Agnieszka Nachilo, Penelope Denu, Olga Kostenko, David Milner

cc: 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