



SECRETARIAT

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7 June 2016

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 3 June 2016

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Paris, with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Statement by the Chair:** expressed its great satisfaction at the liberation of Ms Nadiia Savchenko, Committee member; took note that a joint hearing with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on “Discrimination and Violence against women refugees” would be held on Wednesday, 22 June 2016;
- **Refugees at risk in Greece** (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Greece (29 May 2016), held an exchange of views with Ms Antigoni Angelaki, Head of Operations and Programs, METAdrasi - Action for Migration and Development, Athens; approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended; took note that the Rapporteur would supplement the report with an addendum containing further information and clarifications obtained during the visits in Greece;
- **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Greece (30-31 May 2016):** heard statements by the participants in the fact-finding visit; was informed that Ms Meritxell Mateu (Andorra, ALDE), Rapporteur of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Greece, would present an addendum to the Bureau's forthcoming progress report setting out the findings of the visit; agreed to the display of photos taken during the visit during the debate on the report of Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) scheduled on Tuesday, 21 June 2016;
- **Educational and cultural networks of communities living abroad** (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Thierry Mariani, France, EPP/CD): in the absence of the rapporteur, considered and approved the Committee's opinion including amendments to the draft resolution prepared by the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media;
- **Harmonising the protection of unaccompanied minors in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Manlio Di Stefano, Italy, NR): in the absence of the Rapporteur, took note of a revised introductory memorandum; authorised the rapporteur to carry out fact-finding visits to Turkey and the United Kingdom;
- **The impact of European population dynamics on migration policies** (Rapporteur: Ms Kristin Ørmen Johnsen, Norway, EPP/CD): in the absence of the Rapporteur, decided to postpone the item until the next meeting;

- **The humanitarian crisis in Gaza** (Rapporteur: Ms Eva-Lena Jansson, Sweden, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories (30-31 March 2016) and saw photographs from the visit; held a hearing with the participation of Mr Baruch Spiegel, Former Coordinator for Government Activities in West Bank and Gaza, Former adviser of the Minister of Defence, Tel Aviv, Israel, Mr Yair Hirschfeld, Director General, Economic Co-operation Foundation, Tel Aviv, Israel and Ms Nuriya Oswald, Representative of the Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights Organisation, Gaza City, Palestinian Territories; heard a statement by Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE), Rapporteur on the “Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council”;
- **Migration and refugee challenges in Jordan**: heard a statement by Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit; held an exchange of views with Mr Mustafa Alhamarneh, Member of the Jordanian Partner for Democracy delegation to the PACE;
- **Recommendation 2075 (2015) on “Countries of transit: meeting new migration and asylum challenges”** (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): decided to postpone examination of the reply from the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2075 (2015) until its next meeting;
- **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 7-9 November 2016)**: invited members who wished to be appointed to the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to make themselves known to the Secretariat by 23 June 2016;
- **Appointments of rapporteurs for reports:**
- **Addressing the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons: recent lessons and future challenges in Europe**: appointed Mr Irakli Chikovani (Georgia, ALDE), subject to a declaration of absence of conflict of interest at the next meeting;
- **Migration as an opportunity for European development**: appointed Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe**: appointed Mr Duarte Marques (Portugal, EPP/CD) and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Ukraine**: appointed Mr Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD), and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Representation of the Committee at various events:**
  - Council of Europe Conference of OINGs: “The treatment of migrants, refugees and NGOs defending their rights: from findings to action”, 24 June 2016, Council of Europe, Strasbourg: appointed Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC), at no cost to the Assembly;
  - Migration and Law Conference organised by the Queen Mary University, 27-28 June 2016, London: appointed Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC), at no cost to the Assembly;
  - Crans Montana Forum under the High Patronage of Mr Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria, 29 June-2 July 2016, Vienna: appointed Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), at no cost to the Assembly;
  - Seminar on “Promoting alternatives to the immigration detention of children in Switzerland” in the framework of the Parliamentary Campaign to End immigration detention of children (Bern, Switzerland, 16 June 2016): appointed Mr Florin Costin Pâslaru (Romania, SOC), at no cost to the Assembly;
  - Conference on “Human rights and migrants: Lessons learnt from the recent crisis and the role of international organisations”, organised by the Hellenic Society of International Law and the Athens University of Political Studies, with the support of the Permanent Representation of Greece to the Council of Europe and the Directorate of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, 27-28 May 2016, Nafplion, Greece: heard a statement by Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC);

- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following change:

**Sub-Committee on Integration**

- Ms Annette Groth (Germany, UEL) to become a titular member

- **Free debate:** heard a statement by Ms Nezha El Ouafi, Member of the Moroccan Partner for Democracy delegation to the PACE, on a new law on trafficking in human beings recently adopted in Morocco;

- **Next meetings:**

- **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