



Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy  
*Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie*

*Secretariat*

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## Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg 23-26 April 2012

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND DEMOCRACY**

**The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg on 23-26 April 2012, with Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC), Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE), and Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) in the Chair as regards :

### **The situation in Syria**

**(Rapporteur: Mr Pietro Marcenaro, Italy, SOC):**

- held a hearing with the participation of:
  - . Mr Mohammed Hatem Drak Sibai, member of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent,
  - . Mr Malaz Alatassi, founder and board member of the Syrian Sunrise Foundation,
  - . Mr Joseph Bahout, political expert, Center for International Studies and Research, SciencesPo, Paris,
  - . Mr Alain Délétroz, Vice-president Europe, International Crisis Group, Brussels,
- considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended,
- took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;

### **The promotion of active citizenship in Europe**

**(Rapporteur: Alexander (The Earl of) Dundee, United Kingdom, EDG):**

took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;

### **Hearing on *Women in the Arab spring*:**

held a joint hearing with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, with the participation of:

- . Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,
- . Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
- . Ms Bassima Hakkaoui, Minister of solidarity, Family, Women and Social Development of Morocco,
- . Ms Meherzia Labidi Maïza, First Deputy Speaker of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia,
- . Ms Gamila Ismail, political activist and journalist (Egypt),
- . Ms Sara Maziq, activist, Representative of Women4Libya and founder of the Libyan Civil Society Organisation (Libya),
- . Ms Rima Flihan, activist and writer (Syria),
- . Ms Sarah Ahmed Jamal, co-founder of Support Yemen, activist and researcher (Yemen);

### **Political transition in Tunisia**

**(Rapporteur: Ms Anne Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE):**

- heard statements by Mr Marcenaro, on his visit to Tunis on 18 April 2012, and by Ms Brasseur, Rapporteur,
- held an exchange of views with the participation of:
  - . Ms Meherzia Labidi Maïza, First Deputy-Speaker of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia,
  - . Mr Jamel Touri, Chairperson of the Committee on Institutional Bodies of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia,
  - . Ms Hasna Marsite, deputy Rapporteur of the Committee on rights and freedom of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia,

- . Ms Afef Mbarek, Association Lam Echaml, Tunisia, and
- . Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);

### **The rise of populist movements in Europe and its dangers for democracy**

#### **(Rapporteur: Ms Nursuna Memecan, Turkey, ALDE):**

- held a hearing with the participation of:
  - . Dr Matthew Goodwin, School of Politics & International Relations, Nottingham University, UK,
  - . Dr Senem Aydin-Duzgit, Department of International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey,
  - . Mr Alessandro Campi, Professor of history of political doctrines, University of Perugia, Italy,
- considered an introductory memorandum prepared by the Rapporteur and agreed to change the title of the report to *The rise of populist extremism in Europe and its dangers for democracy*;

### **The situation in Belarus**

#### **(Rapporteur: Mr Andres Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD):**

- heard a statement by the Rapporteur,
- held an exchange of views with Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission;

### **Request for partner for democracy status with the parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic**

#### **(Rapporteur: Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG):**

- heard a statement by the Rapporteur,
- held an exchange of views with Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission;

### **Activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2010-2011**

#### **(Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Marie Bockel, France, EPP/CD):**

- heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to the OECD headquarters in Paris on 18 April 2012,
- considered an introductory memorandum prepared by the Rapporteur and approved his proposed course of action;

### **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy with the Parliament of Morocco**

#### **(Rapporteur: Mr Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD):**

heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Rabat, on 17-18 April 2012;

### **World Forum on Democracy (5-11 October 2012):**

called for candidates for the constitution of the ad hoc Committee to participate in the Forum;

### **Future work:**

called for candidates for:

- . *The political transition in Egypt* (for report),
- . *The young generation sacrificed: political, social, economic and other consequences of the financial crisis* (for opinion),
- . *Keeping political and criminal responsibility separate* (for opinion);

### **Authorisations by the Committee:**

authorised, subject to the availability of funds:

- . Mr Tuur Elzinga (Netherlands, UEL), Rapporteur on the *Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) 2010-2012*, to attend the annual meeting of the EBRD in London on 17-18 May 2012,
- . Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE), Rapporteur on the *Political transition in Tunisia*, to visit Tunisia (subsequently authorised by the Bureau),
- . Mr Latchezar Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *New parliamentary effort to create a stability pact in the Caucasus*, to visit Georgia;

### **Sub-Committees:**

approved the following changes in the lists of the Sub-committees:

- . Ms Christine Muttonen (Austria, SOC) left the Sub-committee on external relations and became a member of the Sub-committee on the Middle East,
- . Mr Igor Corman (Republic of Moldova, SOC) became a member of the Sub-committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation,
- . Mr Roman Jakić (Slovenia, ALDE) became a member of the Sub-committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation, and was put on the waiting list for the Sub-committee on the Middle-East;

**Next meetings:**

recalled the dates and venues of its next meetings in 2012 as follows:

- . 29-30 May, Paris,
- . 25-29 June (3rd part-session), Strasbourg,
- . 10-11 September, Helsinki (Finland),
- . 1-5 October (4th part-session), Strasbourg,
- . 14-15 or 15-16 November, Paris (to be confirmed),
- . 13-14 December, Paris (to be confirmed).

Despina Chatzivassiliou, João Ary, Pavel Chevtchenko, Silvia Arzilli

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General, Directors 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