



AS/PoI (2012) CB 09
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To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Turin, Italy on 13-14 December 2012

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Turin (Italy) with Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC) in the Chair:

on Thursday 13 December 2012, from 9am to 4pm, as regards:

- **Lluís Maria de Puig:** paid tribute to its former member and former President of the Assembly, Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, who had just passed away;
- **Conference on “Human Rights and Foreign Policy”:** heard welcoming statements by Mr Piero Fassino, Mayor of Turin; Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; and Mr Luigi Vitali, Chairperson of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly;

.heard contributions from the following guest speakers:

- Ms Elsa Fornero, Minister of Labour, Social Policies and Equal Opportunities
- Mr Lamberto Dini, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Senate
- Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights
- Mr Vladimir Lukin, Ombudsman of the Russian Federation
- Mr Gianni Magazzeni, Chief of Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch, Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Mr Nicolas J. Beger, Director of Amnesty International European Institutions Office, Brussels
- Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, Italian Jesuit priest and leader of the Deir Mar Mûsa monastery in Syria;
- Mr Kostantin Dolgov, Special Representative for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;

.held a debate on *Human Rights and Foreign Policy* with the participation of Chairpersons of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Committees of National Parliaments of Council of Europe member States and approved a declaration (see in appendix);

Thursday 13 December 2012, from 4pm to 6pm, as regards:

- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy with the parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Luca Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an introductory note by the Rapporteur, with the participation of Mr Karim Ghellab, Speaker of the Chamber of Representatives of the Parliament of Morocco, and declassified the introductory note;
- **The Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2010-2012** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tuur Elzinga, The Netherlands, UEL*): considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;

Friday 14 December 2012, from 9am to 1pm, as regards:

– **The situation in Kosovo¹ and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Mr Hydajet Hyseni-Kaloshi, Vice-President of the Committee on International relations of the Kosovo Assembly, PDK party, representing the ruling majority, and Mr Sabri Hamiti, Vice-President of the Kosovo Assembly, LDK party, representing the opposition; considered and approved a report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;

– **Violence against religious communities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Luca Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of: Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, Italian Jesuit priest and leader of the Deir Mar Mûsa monastery in Syria; and Mr Khaled Fouad Allam, Professor of Sociology of the Muslim world and History and Institutions of the Islamic countries at the University of Trieste;

– **Future work**

.heard a statement by Mr Latchezar Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *New parliamentary effort to create a stability pact in the South Caucasus*, on how he intended to continue work on this report up to the January 2013 part-session;

.heard a statement by Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, EDG), Rapporteur on the *Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*;

.called for candidates for the report on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2012-2013*;

– **Activities of sub-committees**: heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-committee on external relations on the visit to New York (6-7 December 2012);

– **Follow-up to adopted texts emanating from the Committee**: heard a statement by the Chairperson and decided to transmit to the Bureau a document containing comments by rapporteurs on replies to recommendations to the Committee of Ministers emanating from the Committee in 2011;

– **1153bis meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, Tirana, 9 November 2012**: took note of the Stocktaking of the Albanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and of the Priorities of the Andorran Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

– **Next meetings**: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
- 21-25 January 2013 (1st part session), Strasbourg
- 21-22 March 2013, Rabat, Morocco
- 22-26 April 2013 (2nd part session), Strasbourg
- 30-31 May 2013, Paris
- 24-28 June 2013 (3rd part session), Strasbourg
- 6 September 2013, Paris
- 30 September – 4 October 2013 (4th part session), Strasbourg
- 8 November 2013, Paris
- 10-11 December 2013, Paris

D. Chatzivassiliou, J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko, S. 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

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

APPENDIX

TURIN DECLARATION
Conference on Human Rights and Foreign Policy
Turin, 13 December 2012

Representatives of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Committees of parliaments of Council of Europe member States and parliamentarian members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, meeting in Turin,

CONVINCED that:

- it is necessary to strengthen the relationship between human rights and foreign policy and to ensure a stronger commitment to world peace;
- foreign policy cannot neglect human rights or be solely guided by *Realpolitik*. Recent history has shown that this is not only a morally deplorable policy, but also a risky one, which does not prevent crises from developing or real humanitarian emergencies from emerging;
- democracy cannot be exported and the rule of law and human rights can only emerge from the will of the people themselves, as the Arab revolutions have recently demonstrated;
- it is necessary to support human rights defenders and to consult with human rights non-governmental organisations prior to defining foreign policy strategies;
- dialogue, co-operation and political, economic and cultural exchanges are necessary for affirming the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law worldwide;

CALL ON the authorities of Council of Europe member States to:

- pursue systematic and coordinated political action to defend human rights, strengthen democracy and the rule of law and to promote peace;
- systematically include United Nations and Council of Europe standards in their national human rights strategies;
- develop national strategies to promote the full ratification of core human rights instruments and, once ratified, to guarantee their implementation;
- make consistent and intelligent use of “conditionality clauses” in all bilateral agreements and take human rights violations into account in their political and economic dialogue with other countries;
- prioritise political dialogue, negotiation and systematic monitoring of compliance with commitments in any foreign policy strategy, and combine diplomatic action and public and transparent debate;
- consult, support and protect human rights defenders and those who fight for freedom and democracy;
- respect, in their own countries, those human rights which they expect others to recognise, and effectively cooperate with national and international monitoring mechanisms;
- ensure the full implementation of Resolution 1901 (2012) and Recommendation 2004 (2012) on Human Rights and Foreign Policy, adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 3 October 2012;

INVITE the European Union to:

- to promote the consistency of EU member States’ foreign policy decisions and behaviour, with a view to giving a new impetus to the political and diplomatic initiatives in support of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- make full use of the relevant instruments and expertise of the UN and of the Council of Europe, including the implementation of UN human rights treaties and, where appropriate, of the European Convention on Human Rights;

PROPOSE:

- the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe organise, on an institutional basis, meetings of the Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Committees of the parliaments of the Council of Europe member States and invite the European Parliament to join in the organisation of these meetings.