



SECRETARIAT

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10 December 2014

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris 8 December 2014

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris (Room Clemenceau, Sénat) on 8 December 2014, with Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC), Mr Mike Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE) and Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kerstin Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE*): heard information provided by Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, following her contacts with representatives of the European Union Institutions in Brussels (18-19 November 2014); heard statements by Ms Gabriella Battaini Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and by Ambassador Jari Vilen, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe; approved a report, amended and adopted unanimously a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tinatin Khidasheli, Georgia, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her visit to Kyrgyzstan (11-12 November 2014) and a declaration by Ms Asiya Sasykbaeva, Deputy Speaker of the Kyrgyz Republic Parliament, followed by an exchange of views;
- **The political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Marie Bockel, France, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the Rapporteur decided to postpone the item;
- **The Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): took note of a letter from the Parliament of Belarus inviting the Rapporteur to visit the country; heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to his request to carry out a fact-finding mission to the country in the first semester of 2015 subject to the authorisation by the Bureau;
- **Sub-Committee on External Relations**: heard a statement by the Chairperson, Mr José María Beneyto (Spain, EPP/CD), on the meeting at the United Nations in New York from 19 to 21 November 2014;
- **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World**: heard a statement by the Vice-Chairperson, Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC), on the visit of the Sub-Committee to Israel and the Palestinian Territories from 28 to 30 November 2014 and held an exchange of views;
- **Call for candidates for report**: called for candidates for three reports on *Establishing genuine parliamentary dialogue with Algeria*, *Political developments in Iran*, and *Foreign fighters in Syria*;
- **The political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kristýna Zeličková, Czech Republic, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, and members of the Ukrainian delegation, including Ms Iryna Gerashchenko, Chairperson of the European Integration Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament and Ukrainian President's special envoy for conflict settlement in Donetsk and Luhansk regions;

- **Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his meeting on 10 November 2014 in Vienna, with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference ;
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to the Palestinian Territories on 1 December 2014;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: heard a statement by the Chairperson on tensions resulting from Turkey's action in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Authorisations by the Committee**: authorised Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) to attend, as a speaker, the 8th Europe-Ukraine forum which will take place from 15-17 February 2015 in Lodz, Poland;
- **Changes in the composition of sub-committees**: approved the following changes:
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations:
 - .Mr René Rouquet (France, SOC) replaces Mr Thierry Mariani (France EPP/CD)
 - .Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) becomes member in place of Mr Olivier Henry and Mr Dirk Van der Maelen (Belgium, SOC) becomes his alternate following changes to the Belgian delegation;
 - Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World:
 - Mr Dirk Van der Maelen (Belgium, SOC) becomes member in place of Mr Mahoux and Ms Daphné Dumery (Belgium, NR) becomes his alternate;
 - Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD:
 - Mr Hendrik Daems (Belgium, ALDE) becomes member in place of Mr Van der Maelen and Ms Daphné Dumery (Belgium, NR) becomes his alternate;
- **Other business**: agreed to the proposal by Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera (Spain, SOC), Rapporteur on *European Forum about the future*, that the issue should be dealt with in the framework of the World Forum for Democracy, and decided not to take any other action on this report and to inform the Bureau accordingly;
- **Work programme**:
 - . *The situation in Syria*: considered the reply of the Committee of Ministers;
 - . *The need to prevent and combat separatist practices*: took note of a reference for information;
 - . decided to ask for the following extension of references for the report on *The situation in Kosovo^{*} and the role of the Council of Europe* (reference 3932 of 25 January 2013, expiry date for adoption: 25 January 2015) until 29 January 2016;
- **Next meetings**: took note of the forthcoming meetings as follows:

26-30 January 2015, 1st part-session of the Assembly, Strasbourg

(dates and place to be confirmed):

 - 18 March 2015,
 - May/June 2015,
 - 4 September 2015,
 - 4 November 2015,
 - 8 December 2015.

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

^{*} All references 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.

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