

SECRETARIAT

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10 June 2015

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Rome, Italy on 4 and 5 June 2015

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Rome on 4 June 2015,

– with Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in the Chair, held an exchange of views with Ms Maria Elena Boschi, Minister for Constitutional reforms and relations with the Parliament;

with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The Situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **The Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **The political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Marie Bockel, France, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, as well as by the President of the Assembly;
- **The World Forum for Democracy on *Freedom vs control: for a democratic response* (Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015)**: invited members who wished to be appointed to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to make themselves known to the Secretariat by 24 June 2015;
- **The next meetings**: agreed on the following list of forthcoming meetings:
 - during the 3rd part-session in Strasbourg (22-26 June 2015)
 - 1 September 2015, OECD, Paris 16th arrondissement
 - during the 4th part-session in Strasbourg (28 September-2 October 2015)
 - 4 November 2015, Paris (to be confirmed)
 - 7 December 2015, Brussels (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly);
- **The parliamentary seminar on *Towards a code of conduct for parliamentarians: a comparison of national and international experience***, organised by the Italian Chamber of Deputies: heard a welcome address by Ms Laura Boldrini, President of the Chamber of Deputies, and participated in the seminar.

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The Sub-Committee on External Relations and the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), jointly meeting in Rome on 5 June 2015, on **Current political challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean region**, in cooperation with the EU-Council of Europe joint programme “Towards a Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean” (South Programme II), the Parliamentary Projects Support Division of the Assembly, and the Italian Parliament, with Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair:

- heard a **welcome address** by Mr Pietro Grasso, President of the Italian Senate;
- heard **opening remarks** by Mr Benedetto Della Vedova, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Mr Michele Nicoletti, Chairperson of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and Ms Deborah Bergamini, member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and former President of the Council of Europe North-South Centre;
- heard a **keynote speech** by Dr Hala Mustafa, Egyptian political scientist, Cairo;
- debated on the **current situation in Libya and its consequences** with the participation of Ambassador Luca Giansanti, Director General of Political Affairs and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy; Mr Abdul Rahman Al Ageli, co-founder of the Libyan Youth Forum, former security advisor at the Office of the Libyan Prime Minister; and Mr Khalid Chaouki, Italian member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;
- held a **general discussion** with interventions by Ms Gabriella Battaini Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission, and with the participation of members of the Jordanian House of Representatives, the Moroccan House of Representatives and House of Councillors, and the Palestinian National Council.

D. Chatzivassiliou, J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko

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