



SECRETARIAT

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26 June 2015

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 22 to 24 June 2015

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 22 to 24 June 2015, with Mr Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC) and Mr Karl Garðarsson (Iceland, ALDE) in the Chair:

Monday 22 June 2015, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Election of the 1st Vice-Chairperson:** elected, by acclamation, Mr Karl Garðarsson (Iceland, ALDE);
- **Work programme:** took note of the statements from the following Rapporteurs on the progress in the preparation of their reports:
 - Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan
Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EC
 - The situation in Kosovo* and the role of the Council of Europe
Rapporteur: Mr Agustín Conde, Spain, EPP/CD
 - Political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine
Rapporteur: Ms Kristýna Zeličková, Czech Republic, ALDE
 - Establishing genuine parliamentary dialogue with Algeria
Rapporteur: Mr René Rouquet, France, SOC
 - Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan
Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC

Tuesday 23 June 2015, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

- **Work programme (continued):**
 - **World Forum for Democracy on *Freedom vs control: For a democratic response* (Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015):** proposed the following members to be appointed to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau:

Mr Reha DENEMEÇ (Turkey, EC)
Mr Gábor HARANGOZÓ (Hungary, SOC)
Mr Attila MESTERHÁZY (Hungary, SOC)
Mr Michele NICOLETTI (Italy, SOC)
Mr Andrea RIGONI (Italy, ALDE)

* 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.

- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): took position on the 14 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Political evolution in Iran** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr François Nicoullaud, Former Ambassador of France in Tehran, international political analyst,
 - Mr Pietro Marcenaro, former Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the Italian Senate, former Chairperson of the Committee;

Wednesday, 24 June 2015, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

- **Election of the 3rd Vice-Chairperson**: elected, by acclamation, Ms Maria Guzenina (Finland, SOC);
- **Situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EC*): took position on the 13 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2014-2015** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tuur Elzinga, Netherlands, UEL*): considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to send it for comments to the parliaments of OECD member States which are not members of the Council of Europe;
- **Work programme (continued)**:
 - **Consideration of the reply of the Committee of Ministers**: took note of the reply to Resolution 2016 (2014) *Threats against humanity posed by the terrorist group known as "IS": violence against Christians and other religious or ethnic communities*;
 - **Call for candidates**: called for candidates for report on *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* and for opinion on *Renewed commitment in the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe*, and agreed to proceed to the designation of the Rapporteurs at its next meeting on 1 September 2015;
 - **Evaluation of the partnership of democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the progress in the preparation of his report;
 - **Authorisations by the Committee**:
 - agreed to the request by Mr René Rouquet (France, SOC) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Algeria during the second semester of 2015, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *Establishing genuine parliamentary dialogue with Algeria*, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau;
 - authorised Ms Kristýna Zeličková (Czech Republic, ALDE), to carry out a fact-finding visit to Ukraine and to the Russian Federation (Moscow) during the second semester of 2015, in the framework of the preparation of her report on *Political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine*;
- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees**: approved the following change:
 - Mr Senad ŠEPIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD) becomes a member of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World;
- **Other business**: took note of a motion for a resolution on *The need to stop the escalation in the persecution of Christian communities in the Middle East* which was referred to it by the Assembly, for information;

- **Next meetings:** decided on forthcoming meetings as follows:
- 1 September 2015, OECD Headquarters, Paris
 - 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).

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