



SECRETARIAT

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9 November 2015

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 4 November 2015

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 4 November 2015, with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EC*): considered a draft report, amended and adopted a draft resolution; took note that members of the Armenian Delegation would table a dissenting opinion to this report in accordance with Rule 50.4;
- **Foreign fighters in Syria** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and took note that a draft report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee on 7 December 2015;
- **The situation in Kosovo* and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agustín Conde, Spain, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum and took note that a draft report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee on 7 December 2015;
- **Evaluation of the partnership of democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): considered an information memorandum on the second fact-finding visit of the Rapporteur to the Palestinian Territories on 6-7 October 2015; agreed to the proposal by the Rapporteur to request the extension of the reference until 30 June 2016;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his participation in the observation mission of the presidential election in Belarus on 11 October 2015;
- **The political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kristýna Zeličková, Czech Republic, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her participation in the mission which observed local elections in Ukraine on 25 October 2015 as well as on her meeting with the European Parliament Delegations to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation and to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committees on 12 October 2015 in Brussels;

* 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.

- **Political developments in Iran** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on recent developments;
- **Sub-Committee on External Relations**: heard a statement by Mr André Bugnon (Switzerland, ALDE), Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the preparation of the visit to the United Nations bodies and other international organisations based in Geneva, 12-13 November 2015;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: discussed the immigrant flows into Europe and Europe's response;
- **Work programme**:
 - **Appointment of Rapporteurs**: appointed Mr Georges Loukaides (Cyprus, UEL) as Rapporteur on *The political transition in Tunisia*;
 - **Call for candidates**: called for candidates for opinion on *Towards a democratic approach to the issues of governance in European multinational States*;
 - **Consideration of a reply of the Committee of Ministers**: took note of the reply on Assembly Recommendation 2060 (2015) on *The implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union*;
- **Authorisations by the Committee**:
 - approved the request by Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC) to organise a workshop with the participation of 3 experts in the framework of the preparation of his report on *Corruption as a governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress*, either in Rome or in Paris before the end of the year;
 - authorised Ms Kristýna Zelenková (Czech Republic, ALDE) to carry out additional fact-finding visits to Ukraine, including to the extent possible, in agreement with the Ukrainian authorities, the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities, in the context of the preparation of her report on *The political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine*;
 - authorised Mr Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC) to attend the Lisbon Forum 2015, on *How to combat radicalisation and terrorism: Prevention Tools and Shared Knowledge in the Mediterranean and European space*, which will take place on 3-4 December 2015 in Lisbon;
 - authorised Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) to attend the Seminar organised by the Nordic Council and the Baltic Assembly about *Belarus and the Eastern Partnership after election in Belarus*, which will take place on 7 December 2015 in Vilnius;
- **Next meetings**: confirmed forthcoming meetings as follows:
 - 7 December 2015, Brussels (Senate),
 - meetings in 2016:
 - in Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1st part-session, 25-29 January 2016,
 - 8 March 2016 (venue to be confirmed),
 - in Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 18-22 April 2016,
 - 24-25 May 2016 (venue to be confirmed),
 - in Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session, 20-24 June 2016,
 - 8 September 2016 (venue to be confirmed),
 - in Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session, 10-14 October 2016,
 - 7 November 2016 (venue to be confirmed),
 - 15 December 2016 (venue to be confirmed).

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