



**FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis N° 2012/02

27 March 2012

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Paris on Thursday, 22 March 2012, with Ms Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

As regards:

- *Decent pensions for all* (Rapporteur: Mr Jacquat, France, EPP/CD): considered a draft report, agreed to change the title from “*Decent pensions for all following the economic and financial crisis*” to “*Decent pensions for all*”, amended a preliminary draft resolution and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation with a view to presenting the report for debate at the April 2012 part-session;

- *Promoting an appropriate policy on tax-havens* (Rapporteur: Mr Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC): considered a draft report, amended and adopted a draft resolution with a view to presenting the report for debate at the April 2012 part-session;

- *Restoring social justice through a tax on financial transactions* (Rapporteur: Ms Naghdalyan, Armenia, ALDE): in the absence of the Rapporteur, took note of an outline report;

- *Towards a Council of Europe Convention to combat trafficking in organs, tissues and cells of human origin* (Rapporteur: Mr Marquet, Monaco, ALDE): heard an oral report by Mr Marquet on the state of negotiations in the drafting Committee (PC-TO), whose first two meetings he had attended on behalf of the Committee, considered an outline report, decided to make this outline report and the minutes of the discussion thereon available to the PC-TO, and decided to invite the Chairperson of the PC-TO to one of its meetings during the June 2012 part-session;

- *Update on the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE campaign*: heard a statement by the Chairperson;

- *Committee's work programme and priorities*:

. Appointed: Sir Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC) General rapporteur on local and regional authorities of the Parliamentary Assembly;

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

Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisational Development and Reform

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

. Appointed for report: Mr Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE) on “The impact of increasing social exclusion on democratic institutions and participation: need for strong action”;

. Appointed for opinion: the Earl of Dundee (United Kingdom, EDG) on “Crisis of democracy and role of the state in today’s Europe”;

. Appointed the following Committee representatives to external events:

- ✓ Mr Volontè (Italy, EPP/CD) to take part in the 26th meeting of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ), Budapest, 29 March 2012;
- ✓ Ms Rupprecht (Germany, SOC) to take part 2nd Meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, Strasbourg, 29-30 March 2012;
- ✓ Sir Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC) to take part in the European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR) meeting, Strasbourg, 2-3 April 2012;
- ✓ Sir Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC) to take part in the European Best Practice Programme, “Regeneration of the European coastal towns”, Steering Committee meeting, Strasbourg, 13 April 2012;
- ✓ Mr Schennach (Austria, SOC) as substitute for Ms Blondin (France, SOC) for the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – Council of Europe, North-South Centre;
- ✓ the Earl of Dundee (United Kingdom, EDG), Mr Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE), Mr Kırkçü (Turkey, UEL), Ms Ohlsson (Sweden, SOC) and Mr Volontè (Italy, EPP/CD) to take part in the World Forum on Democracy, Strasbourg, 5-11 October 2012 (*5 members appointed to the ad hoc Committee*).

- *Hearing on: Overcoming the crisis and its effects*: held a joint hearing in the framework of the preparation of the following three reports:

- *Austerity measures – a danger for democracy and social rights*
(Rapporteur: Mr Hunko, Germany, UEL)
- *The young generation sacrificed: political, social, economic and other consequences of the financial crisis*
(Rapporteur: Mr Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD)
- *The impact of the world economic crisis on local and regional authorities*
(Rapporteur: Sir Alan Meale, United Kingdom, SOC)

with the participation of:

. Ms Monika Queisser, Head of the Social Policy Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): “Implications of growing inequalities in society and what can be done to overcome them”

. Prof. Arne Heise, Faculty for Economic and Social Sciences, University of Hamburg, Germany: “Effects of European austerity programmes on social security systems”

. Ms Madi Sharma, British member of the Employers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC): “Opportunities amidst the crisis - proposals for empowerment, inclusion and valuing human capital”

. Mr Luca Scarpiello, Vice-President, European Youth Forum: “The effects of the crisis on the young generation”

Resuming its meeting on Friday, 23 March 2012 with Ms Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

- *Committee’s work programme and priorities*:

. Heard reports from committee representatives at external events:

- ✓ Sir Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC) who took part in the meeting of the Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Strasbourg, 8 February 2012, and the 22nd session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Strasbourg, on 21 March 2012;
- ✓ Sir Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC) and Lord Dundee (United Kingdom, EDG) who took part in the high level meeting on local and regional democracy, London, 13 February 2012;

- *Energy diversification as a fundamental contribution to sustainable development* (Rapporteur: Ms Barnett, Germany, SOC): held an exchange of views with Professor Samuele Furfari, the Free University of Brussels;
- *Austerity measures – a danger for democracy and social rights* (Rapporteur: Mr Hunko, Germany, UEL): considered an introductory memorandum;
- *The young generation sacrificed: political, social, economic and other consequences of the financial crisis* (Rapporteur: Mr Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD): in the absence of the rapporteur, took note of an outline report;
- *The impact of the world economic crisis on local and regional authorities* (Rapporteur: Sir Alan Meale, United Kingdom, SOC): considered a revised draft report, heard a statement by Ms Gabriela Matei, Senior Programme Manager, Democracy, Institution-Building and Governance Department, Directorate General II – Democracy, Council of Europe, and held an exchange of views;
- *Other business*: approved the following changes in the Sub-Committees:

For the delegation of Azerbaijan

Ms Fataliyeva becomes a full member of the Sub-Committee on Social and Economic Rights.

For the delegation of Bulgaria

Ms Grozdanova becomes a full member of the Sub-Committee on Public Health.

For the delegation of Czech Republic

Ms Filipiova becomes a full member of the Sub-Committee on Public Health.

For the delegation of Germany

Ms Rupprecht becomes the alternate of Mr Siebert on the Sub-Committee on Social and Economic Rights. M. Siebert becomes the alternate of M. Fischer and M. Glos becomes the alternate of M. Fritz in the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize.

For the delegation of Luxembourg:

Mr Boden becomes a full member of the Sub-Committee on Environment and Energy.
Mr Spautz becomes a full member of the Sub-Committee on Public Health.

For the delegation of Romania

Mr Fenechiu and Mr Iordache become full members of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize and their alternates are Mr Stroe and Mr Tudose.

For the delegation of the Russian Federation

Ms Borzova becomes a full member of the Sub-Committee on Public Health, with Mr Kalashnikov as her alternate.
Mr Shamkov and Mr Zhidkikh become full members of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize.

For the delegation of Spain

In the Sub-Committee on Social and Economic Rights, Ms Parera becomes a full member and Mr Conde her alternate.
In the Sub-Committee on Environment and Energy, Spain no longer has a full member, but it still has an alternate (Mr Conde).

For the delegation of Ukraine

Mr Shershun becomes a full member of the Sub-Committee on Environment and Energy.

For the delegation of the United Kingdom

In the Sub-Committee on Public Health, Mr Dobbin becomes a full member leaving his place as a substitute to Mr Flynn. Lord Dundee becomes a full member of this Sub-Committee. His alternate is Mr Binley. Mr Hancock becomes the alternate of Mr Donaldson.

- Date and place of next meetings

Plenary committee:

- Second part-session 2012 of the Assembly, 23-27 April 2012, Strasbourg;
- Tuesday, 22 May 2012 in Paris (Council of Europe office);
- Third part-session 2012 of the Assembly, 25-29 June 2012, Strasbourg;
- Friday, 7 September 2012 **or** Friday, 14 September 2012 (*to be determined*), Paris (Council of Europe office);
- Fourth part-session 2012 of the Assembly, 1-5 October 2012, Strasbourg.

Sub-Committee:

- Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, Thursday, 29 March 2012, Berlin.

Network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children:

- Second part-session 2012 of the Assembly, 24 April 2012, Strasbourg;
- Third part-session 2012 of the Assembly, Strasbourg.

The Sub-Committee on Public Health, meeting in Paris on Friday, 23 March 2012, with first Ms Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC), then the Earl of Dundee (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair:

- elected the Earl of Dundee (United Kingdom, EDG) Chairperson by acclamation;
- elected Mr Dobbin (United Kingdom, SOC) Vice-Chairperson by secret ballot;

- Sub-Committee's work programme and priorities: held an exchange of views;

- Date and place of the next meeting: second part-session 2012 of the Assembly, April 2012, Strasbourg.

The Sub-Committee on Social and Economic Rights, meeting in Paris on Friday, 23 March 2012, with first Ms Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC), then Mr Vercamer (Belgium, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- elected Ms Ohlsson (Sweden, SOC) Chairperson by acclamation;
- elected Mr Vercamer (Belgium, EPP/CD) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;

- Sub-Committee's work programme and priorities: held an exchange of views;

- Date and place of the next meeting: second part-session 2012 of the Assembly, April 2012, Strasbourg.

The Sub-Committee on Environment and Energy, meeting in Paris on Friday, 23 March 2012, with Ms Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

- elected Ms Marin (France, EPP/CD) Chairperson by acclamation;
- elected Mr Schennach (Austria, SOC) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;

- Sub-Committee's work programme and priorities: held an exchange of views;

- Date and place of the next meeting: second part-session 2012 of the Assembly, April 2012, Strasbourg.

Tanja Kleinsorge, Aiste Ramanauskaite, Maren Lambrecht-Feigl