



**AS/SOC (2016) CB 07**

14 October 2016

## To the members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 10 to 13 October 2016

The Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, meeting in Strasbourg from 10 to 13 October 2016 on:

- **Monday, 10 October 2016, at 2 pm** with Ms Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the chair, as regards:
  - **Children's rights related to surrogacy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra De Sutter, Belgium, SOC*): decided to consider amendments on 11 October 2016 *in camera*;
  - **Lessons from the "Panama Papers" to ensure fiscal and social justice** (*Rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC*): considered and approved an addendum to the report;
  - **Committee's work programme:**
    - *appointed rapporteurs as follows:*

#### *For report*

- The provision of elderly and palliative care in Europe: decided to change the title of the report to "The provision of palliative care in Europe" and appointed Mr Rónán Mullen (Ireland, EPP/CD) rapporteur;
- A potential threat to European countries imposed by the nuclear power plant in Belarus: Ms Emine Nur Günay (Turkey, EC);
- Increased income inequalities are a threat to social cohesion: Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL);
- Climate change and implementation of the Paris Agreement: Lord John Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC);

#### *For opinion*

- Human rights compatibility of investor-State arbitration in international investment protection agreements: Mr Geraint Davies (United Kingdom, SOC);

and heard declarations on the absence of a conflict of interests from Mr Rónán Mullen, Ms Emine Nur Günay, Mr Andrej Hunko and Mr Geraint Davies (also as regards the latter's report on "The exploration and exploitation of non-conventional hydrocarbons in Europe");

- *appointed Committee representatives to external events as follows (subject to the availability of funds):*
  - The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 22), 7-18 November 2016, Marrakesh, Morocco, including a parliamentary meeting on 13 November 2016 (*participation limited to three days*): Lord John Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC);

- Plenary Meeting of the LVI COSAC (Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of the European Union Parliaments), 13-15 November 2016, Bratislava, Slovak Republic (*at no cost to the Assembly*): Ms Sílvia Eloísa Bonet (Andorra, SOC);
- European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), 14-15 November 2016, Strasbourg: Mr Luís Leite Ramos (Portugal, EPP/CD) in his capacity as General Rapporteur on Local and Regional Authorities;
- International Conference on “International treaties, social state and autonomous communities”, 18 November 2016, Valencia, Spain (*at no cost to the Assembly*): Ms Sílvia Eloísa Bonet (Andorra, SOC);
- 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (“Lanzarote Committee), 22-25 November 2016, INTERPOL headquarters, Lyon, France (*participation limited to three days*): Ms Sevinj Fataliyeva (Azerbaijan, EC) in her capacity as General Rapporteur on Children, and, in case she would not be available, Ms Gabriela Pecková (Czech Republic, EPP/CD) would step in;
- 10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO), 5-8 December 2016, Strasbourg (*participation limited to three days*): Ms Guguli Magradze (Georgia, SOC);
- *heard reports from Committee representatives to external events as follows:*
  - 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference of the WTO, 28 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland: Mr Ögmundur Jónasson (Iceland, UEL);
  - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF), 28-29 September 2016, Strasbourg: Ms Sevinj Fataliyeva (Azerbaijan, EC);
- *World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2016:* took note of the draft programme and appointed Mr İlhan Kesici (Turkey, SOC) and Ms Ganira Pashayeva (Azerbaijan, ALDE) as additional members to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau;
- *Consideration of draft motions for a resolution/recommendation with a view to adoption by the Committee for tabling:* agreed to table a motion for a resolution on “Inquiry into growing antimicrobial resistance in Europe”;
- *Consideration of Committee priorities for 2017 and beyond:* heard a statement by its Chairperson on the proposals contained in document AS/Soc (2016) 40, notably as regards possible modifications to the sub-committees’ structure and the abolition of the general rapporteurship on children;
- ***Harmonising the protection of unaccompanied minors in Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD): considered and unanimously approved a draft opinion, including six amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Tuesday, 11 October 2016, at 8:30 am** with Ms Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the chair, as regards:
  - ***Children’s rights related to surrogacy*** (Rapporteur: Ms Petra De Sutter, Belgium, SOC): took position on 2 amendments tabled while meeting *in camera*;
  - ***Lessons from the “Panama Papers” to ensure fiscal and social justice*** (Rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC): took position on 15 amendments tabled;
  - ***The exploration and exploitation of non-conventional hydrocarbons in Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Geraint Davies, United Kingdom, SOC): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution, with a view to presenting the report for debate in the Standing Committee at its meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 25 November 2016;

- **Tuesday, 11 October 2016, at 2 pm** with Ms Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and (for the item “Ensuring access to healthcare for all children in Europe”) Ms Silvia Eloisa Bonet (Andorra, SOC), first Vice-Chairperson, in the chair, as regards:
  - ***Ensuring access to healthcare for all children in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Stella Kyriakides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): considered a revised draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended, with a view to presenting the report for debate in the Standing Committee at its meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 25 November 2016;
  - ***Committee’s work programme:***
    - *Striking a balance between the best interest of the child and the need to keep the families together:* appointed Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi (Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD) rapporteur and heard from him a declaration on the absence of a conflict of interests;
    - *Committee priorities for 2017 and beyond:* held an exchange of views and decided, with effect from the first day of the January 2017 part-session, to:
      - o create a new Sub-Committee on Children and abolish the General Rapporteurship on Children;
      - o create a new Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development (replacing its current Sub-Committees on Public Health, and on Energy and Environment);
- **Thursday, 13 October 2016, at 9 am** with Ms Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the chair, as regards:
  - ***A European social commitment guaranteeing the rights of the elderly and their comprehensive care*** (*Rapporteur: Lord George Foulkes, United Kingdom, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visits to Romania and Denmark and agreed to change the title of the report to “A European social commitment guaranteeing the rights of older people and their comprehensive care”;
  - ***Reinforcing social dialogue as an instrument for stability and decreasing social and economic inequalities*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Ögmundur Jónasson, Iceland, UEL*): considered a preliminary draft report;
  - ***Genetically engineered human beings*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra De Sutter, Belgium, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
  - ***Sub-Committee on the Environment and Energy:*** heard a report from the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on its meeting held in Lviv, Ukraine on 29 September 2016;
  - ***Changes in the Sub-Committees:*** took note of the following changes:
    - **Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize**

Mr Miltiades Varvitsiotis (Greece, EPP/DC) became an alternate to Mr Georgios Kyritsis (UEL) and Mr Krzysztof Sitarski (Poland, EC) became a member;
    - **Committee on the European Social Charter**

Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) became a member replacing Mr Tuur Elzinga (UEL);
    - **Sub-Committee on Public Health**

Mr Evangelos Meimarakis (Greece, EPP/CD) became a member replacing Ms Eleni Rapti (EPP/CD);
    - **Sub-Committee on Environment and Energy**

Mr Miltiades Varvitsiotis (Greece, EPP/DC) became an alternate to Mr Evangelos Meimarakis (EPP/CD);

- **Thursday, 13 October 2016, at 2 pm** with Ms Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the chair, as regards:
  - ***Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and its implications for social rights, public health and sustainable development*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Geraint Davies, United Kingdom, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
    - Mr Sam Fowles, Researcher in International Law at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London, visiting lecturer in Trade Law at the University of London Institute in Paris;
    - Mr Juergen Knirsch, Trade Policy Advisor, Greenpeace, Germany;

and decided to issue a statement on the concerns over the planned signature of the Provisional Agreement on the EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement (the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement CETA) foreseen for 18 October 2016;
  - ***Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter***: heard a report of the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on its meeting held in Strasbourg on 13 October 2016;
  - ***Appointment of Committee representatives to external events (subject to the availability of funds)***:
    - The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 22), 7-18 November 2016, Marrakesh, Morocco, including a parliamentary meeting on 13 November 2016 (*participation limited to three days*): in addition to Lord John Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC), appointed Mr Geraint Davies (United Kingdom, SOC) *at no cost to the Assembly*;
  - ***Date and place of next meetings***:

**Plenary committee:**

- Wednesday, 30 November and Thursday 1 December 2016, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, Italy;

**Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children:**

- Thursday, 1 December 2016, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, Italy;

**Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter:**

- Friday, 28 October 2016, Paris, France.

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**The Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter**, meeting in Strasbourg on 13 October 2016, with Ms Sevinj Fataliyeva (Azerbaijan, EC), first as Vice-Chairperson and later as the newly elected Chairperson, in the chair:

- following the departure from the Assembly of the previous Chairperson, elected Ms Sevinj Fataliyeva (Azerbaijan, EC) as Chairperson and Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL) as Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
- heard a statement by the Chairperson on preparations for the next parliamentary seminar aimed at promoting the implementation of the European Social Charter, to be held on 28 October 2016 in Paris, to address the specific issues relating to children at work and corporal punishment;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: Friday, 28 October 2016, Paris, France.

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T. Kleinsorge, A. Ramanauskaite, M. Lambrecht-Feigl, A. Elveriş, R. Mallaina, A. Beliaeva

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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