



SECRETARIAT

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19 December 2016

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris 15 December 2016

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 15 December 2016, with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Situation in Lebanon and challenges for regional stability and European security** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tobias Zech, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): considered an information note by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to The Hague from 7 to 8 November 2016 and heard a statement on his participation in the workshop on *Corruption and its trends: a policy challenge*, which took place in Venice, Italy, on 2 December 2016, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on recent developments in Turkey**: considered and decided to declassify a report on the fact-finding visit to Ankara (21-23 November 2016) on the basis of a memorandum prepared by Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Chairperson of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee; held an exchange of views and took note of the fact that, according to Rule 49.4. of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee ceased to exist; decided to ask for an urgent debate to be held at the January 2017 part-session on the functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey;
- **Sub-Committee on External Relations:**
 - held an exchange of views with Mr Maulen Ashimbaev (Kazakhstan), Chairperson of the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Mr Rubik Akopyan (Armenia) and Mr Konstantin Kosachev (Russian Federation), members of the Commission, and took note of an invitation (to be confirmed in writing) to hold a joint meeting in St Petersburg on the occasion of the conference on terrorism co-organised by the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (27-28 March 2017);
 - heard a statement by Ms Aleksandra Djurović (Serbia, EPP/CD) on the meeting of the Sub-Committee at the United Nations in New York (7-9 December 2016), followed by an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs:**
 - appointed Mr Hendrik Daems (Belgium, ALDE) as Rapporteur on the *Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)* subject to hearing from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;

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- appointed Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) as Rapporteur for opinion on *The humanitarian crisis in Gaza* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:**
- approved the request by Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Minsk, Belarus, in the first half of 2017, in the framework of the preparation of his report on the *Situation in Belarus* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - decided to transmit to the Bureau of the Assembly the request for the extension until 30 June 2017 of the reference on *The political transition in Tunisia*;
- **Other business:**
- took note of Mr Rigoni's (Italy, ALDE) proposal to organise a hearing, during the January 2017 part-session, on the *Situation in Belarus*, with the participation of two members of the House of Representatives of Belarus, one from the majority and one from the opposition, as well as of a representative of civil society;
 - took note of a statement by Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *Setting minimal standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections*, including a proposal to organise a hearing with experts during January 2017 part-session of the Assembly, agreed to her request to participate in a forthcoming meeting of the Council of Democratic Elections (Venice Commission); to organise meetings in Rome, Italy, and to ask an opinion of the Venice Commission on the matter;
 - took note of a statement by Ms Centemero on a conference on *Women's participation in public life* to be organised in Rome, Italy, on 10 February 2017, and of her intention to invite the Committee to be represented;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings as follows:
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1st part-session, 23-27 January 2017
 - 6 March 2017, Paris
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 24-28 April 2017
 - 22 May 2017, Paris or 14-15 June 2017, Denmark
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session, 26-30 June 2017
 - 6 September 2017, Paris
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session, 9-13 October 2017
 - 14 November 2017, Paris
 - 14 December 2017, Paris.

D. Chatzivassiliou, J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko, S. Arzilli

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