



SECRETARIAT

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30 January 2017

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 23-26 January 2017

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 January 2017, first with Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC), oldest member present, then with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) and Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

Monday 23 January 2017, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:

– **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**

- re-elected, by acclamation, Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Chairperson,
- elected, by acclamation, Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD), 1st Vice-Chairperson,
- elected, by acclamation, Mr Hendrik Daems (Belgium, ALDE), 2nd Vice-Chairperson,
- re-elected, by acclamation, Ms Maria Guzenina (Finland, SOC), 3rd Vice-Chairperson;

– **The humanitarian crisis in Gaza** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Lord Donald Anderson, United Kingdom, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and considered and approved the Committee's opinion; paid tribute to Lord Anderson, who was to leave the Committee, and thanked him for his valuable contribution to its work;

– **The political transition in Egypt** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Cairo from 5 to 7 December 2016 and held an exchange of views with Mr Anwar El Sadat, member of the Egyptian House of Representatives;

– **Constitution of Sub-Committees:**

- reconstituted the following standing Sub-Committees:
 - Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World,
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations,
 - Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD;
- set up an *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in a joint meeting with the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Cooperation of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) and in a parliamentary conference on "Combating international terrorism", co-organised by the IPA CIS and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Saint Petersburg, 27-28 March 2017, and made a call for candidates;

Tuesday 24 January 2017, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Fight against terrorism: follow-up to texts adopted in 2016:** held an exchange of views with Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and took note of the proposal by the Chairperson to prepare a report on victims of terrorism;
- **The situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views with the participation of two members of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus, Mr Andrei Naumovich, Head of the Standing Committee on Human Rights, National Relations and Media, and Ms Anna Kanopatskaya, Member of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as well as with Mr Valiantsin Stefanovic, Deputy Chairperson of the Human Rights Center *Viasna*;
- **Open discussion on current issues:** held an exchange of views on recent developments in Turkey and decided to continue the discussion in the afternoon with a view to adopting a statement;

Tuesday 24 January 2017, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

- **Open discussion on current issues (cont'd):** following a further exchange of views, adopted a statement on the situation in Turkey;
- **The situation in Syria: follow-up to Resolutions 1878 (2012) and 2138 (2016):** heard a statement by Mr Jean-Claude Mignon (France, EPP/CD), former Rapporteur on *The situation in Aleppo*, and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Salam Kawakibi, Deputy Director, Arab Reform Initiative and Mr Ziad Majed, Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Paris;
- **The situation in Kosovo^{*} and the role of the Council of Europe: follow-up to Resolution 2094 (2016):** heard a statement by the Chairperson, followed by statements by the Chairperson of the delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo and the Chairperson of the parliamentary delegation of Serbia; held an exchange of views and decided to continue the discussion on Thursday;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** appointed the members of its standing Sub-Committees;

Thursday 26 January 2017, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Setting minimal standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
- **The situation in Kosovo^{*} and the role of the Council of Europe: follow-up to Resolution 2094 (2016) (cont'd):** continued the exchange of views;
- **The situation in Lebanon and challenges for regional stability and European security** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tobias Zech, Germany, EPP/CD*): considered one amendment to the draft resolution to which it approved a written sub-amendment;
- **The political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; considered an outline for report and held an exchange of views;

^{*} 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.

– **Work programme:**

- accepted the invitation by the Danish delegation to hold a meeting on 14 June 2017 in Copenhagen and to participate in the *People's Political Festival* on Bornholm Island on 15 June 2017 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly);
- appointed members of its *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the events organised by the IPA-CIS, Saint Petersburg, 27-28 March 2017 (see Appendix), and took note that the Chairperson would request the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly to take part in these events;
- appointed Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE) as Rapporteur on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- called for candidates for report on *Assessing political consequences of foreign funding of Islam in Europe*;
- in the framework of the Assembly's institutional representation, appointed the following members and substitutes and decided to inform the Bureau of the Assembly accordingly:
 - Council for democratic elections of the Venice Commission:
 - . Member: Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC),
 - . Substitute: Mr Corneliu M. Cozmanniciuc (Romania, EPP/CD);
 - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI):
 - . Member: Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC)
 - . Substitute: Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD);

– **Changes in composition of sub-committees:** made changes in the composition of members of its standing Sub-Committees (see Appendix), it being understood that delegations with more than one full member in a given Sub-Committee would make available the extra places should a delegation not represented in that Sub-Committee submit a candidate;

– **Authorisations by the Committee:** approved the following requests:

- Mr Georges Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL) to carry out, in 2017, a fact-finding visit to Tunisia, which could not be organised in 2016, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *The political transition in Tunisia* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) to carry out a further fact-finding visit to Egypt in 2017, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *The political transition in Egypt* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC) to participate, in the context of his report on *Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress*, in a conference organised by the GRECO to launch the fifth evaluation round in Strasbourg on 20 March 2017 as well as to carry out a fact-finding visit to Spain for the same report;
- Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE), Rapporteur on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017*, to participate in the 5th OECD Parliamentary Days, held jointly with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Paris, 8-10 February 2017;

– **Other business:**

- approved the request by Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE), Rapporteur on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*, that the reference be extended until the end of 2017 and decided to submit this request to the Bureau of the Assembly;

- decided to authorise the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend the meetings of the Committee throughout 2017;
 - took note of the call for nominations for the 2017 Vaclav Havel Prize, and that the deadline for applications was 30 April 2017;
- **Next meetings:** decided on forthcoming meetings as follows:
- 6 March 2017, Paris
 - 27-28 March 2017, Saint Petersburg (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly)
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 24-28 April 2017
 - 14-15 June 2017, Copenhagen and Bornholm Island, Denmark (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly)
 - 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.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 January 2017 with first Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) and then Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** re-elected Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC), Chairperson by acclamation, and Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Future work:**
- was informed by the Chairperson of the unsuccessful efforts to hold a meeting in Tunis in 2016 and of the possibility to take part in a seminar to be organised by the Assembly's Parliamentary Projects Support Division, perhaps in Jordan in the first half of May;
 - held an exchange of views with delegations from the Knesset and the Palestinian National Council;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene its next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on External Relations** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 January 2017 with first Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) and then Ms Aleksandra Djurović (Serbia, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Ms Aleksandra Djurović (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and Mr Senad Šepić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Relations with the United Nations:** took note of the synopsis of the meetings which took place in New York (USA) from 7 to 9 December 2016 and that, following the visit, Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) had drafted a motion for a resolution on *Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations*;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene its next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 January 2017 with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** re-elected, by acclamation, Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) Chairperson, and Mr Bernard Pasquier (Monaco, ALDE), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Future work:**
 - heard a statement by Mr Hendrik Daems (Belgium, ALDE), Rapporteur on *The activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)* and decided, in principle, to meet at the headquarters of the EBRD in London;
 - took note that the 5th OECD Parliamentary Days, held jointly with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, will take place at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris on 8-10 February 2017 and that members of the Sub-Committee were welcome to attend at their own cost;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene its next meeting.

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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

APPENDIX

**ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
to participate in the events organised by the IPA-CIS, Saint Petersburg, 27-28 March 2017**

**Sous-commission ad hoc de la Commission des questions politique et de la démocratie
pour participer aux événements organisés par l'AIP-CEI, Saint Pétersbourg, 27-28 mars 2017**

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président(e)

...

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)

...

Members / Membres

Alternates / Remplaçants

1.	Ms WURM Gisela (SOC)	Austria / Autriche
2.	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
3.	Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
4.	Mr DAEMS Hendrik (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique
5.	Mr DESTEXHE Alain (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique
6.	Mr ŠEPIĆ Senad (EPP/CD)	Bosnia and Herzegovina
7.	Mme DURRIEU Josette (SOC)	France
8.	Mme GOY-CHAVENT Sylvie (EPP/CD)	France
9.	M. MIGNON Jean-Claude (EPP/CD)	France
10.	M. ROUQUET René (SOC)	France
11.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce
12.	Mr COWEN Barry (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande
13.	Mr ORELLANA Luis Alberto (ALDE)	Italy / Italie
14.	Mr RIGONI Andrea (ALDE)	Italy / Italie
15.	Ms BULIGA Valentina (SOC)	Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova
16.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie
17.	Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie
18.	Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse
19.	Mr BAYKAL Deniz (SOC)	Turkey / Turquie
20.	Mr KÜÇÜKCAN Talip (EC)	Turkey / Turquie
21.	Ms GILLAN Cheryl (EC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
22.	Ms TOLHURST Kelly (EC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
23.	Mr WILSON Phil (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
24.	Mr NICOLETTI Michele (SOC)	Chairperson SOC / Président SOC
25.	Mr KOX Tiny	Chairperson UEL / Président GUE
26.	Mr XUCLÀ Jordi	Chairperson ALDE / Président ADLE
27.	Mr FISCHER Axel	Chairperson EPP/CD / Président PPE/DC
28.	Mr LIDDELL GRAINGER Ian	Chairperson EC / Président CE
29.		

Ex-officio:

Mr Mogens JENSEN

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

**Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient et le monde arabe
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président

Mr Titus CORLĂȚEAN (Romania, SOC)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-présidente

Ms Kerstin LUNDGREN (Sweden, ALDE)

Members / Membres

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2. Ms KARAPETYAN Naira (EPP/CD)
3. Ms MUTTONEN Christine (SOC)
4. Mr VAN DER MAELEN Dirk (SOC)
5. Mr ŠEPIĆ Senad (EPP/CD)
6. Mr LOUCAIDES Georges (UEL)
7. Ms VÁHALOVÁ Dana (SOC)
8. Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)
9. Ms GUZENINA Maria (SOC)
10. Mme DURRIEU Josette (SOC)
11. Ms CHUGOSHVILI Tamar (SOC)
12. Mr ZECH Tobias (EPP/CD)
13. Mr HUNKO Andrej (UEL)
14. Ms KAVVADIA Ioanneta (UEL)
15. Mr BROPHY Colm (EPP/CD)
16. Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)
17. Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)
18. Ms OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria (EPP/CD)
19. Mr KLICH Bogdan (EPP/CD)
20. Ms MENDES Ana Catarina (SOC)
21. Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)
22. Ms LUNDGREN Kerstin (ALDE)
23. Mme FIALA Doris (ALDE)
24. Mr KANDEMIR Erkan (EC)
25. Mr WILSON Phil (SOC)
26. Mr SALMOND Alex (NR)
27. Mr KOX Tiny
28. Mme BRASSEUR Anne (ALDE)
29. Mr XUCLÀ Jordi (ALDE)

Andorra / Andorre
Armenia / Arménie
Austria / Autriche
Belgium / Belgique
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Cyprus / Chypre
Czech Republic / République tchèque
Denmark / Danemark
Finland / Finlande
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Germany / Allemagne
Greece / Grèce
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Lithuania / Lituanie
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Poland / Pologne
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Turkey / Turquie
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
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Immediate past President of the Assembly /
Présidente de l'Assemblée sortante
Chairperson ALDE / Président ADLE

Alternates / Remplaçants

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Ms WURM Gisela (SOC)
Ms DUMERY Daphné (NR)
Ms KYRIADKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)
M. ROCHEBLOINE François (EPP/CD)
Mr HARDT Jürgen (EPP/CD)
Ms KASIMATI Nina (UEL)
Mr RIGONI Andrea (ALDE)
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M. HEER Alfred (ALDE)
Mr KÜÇÜKCAN Talip (EC)
Ms AHMED-SHEIKH Tasmina (NR)
Ms GILLAN Cheryl (EC)

Ex-officio:

Mr Mogens JENSEN

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

Waiting list:

M. LEGENDRE Jacques (EPP/CD)
Mr KROSS Eerik-Niiles (ALDE)

France
Estonia

**Sub-Committee on External Relations
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission des relations extérieures
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président

Mr Senad ŠEPIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD)

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4.	Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)
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29.	Mme BRASSEUR Anne (ALDE)	Immediate past President of the Assembly / Présidente de l'Assemblée sortante	

Ex-officio:

Mr Mogens JENSEN

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /

Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

Waiting list:

Mr ZECH Tobias (Germany, EPP/CD)

Mr BUTKEVIČIUS Algirdas (Lithuania, SOC)

Mr COWEN Barry (Ireland, ALDE)

Mr KÜÇÜKCAN Talip (Turkey, EC)

Ms GILLAN Cheryl (United Kingdom, EC)

Mr GONCHARENKO Oleksii (Ukraine, EC)

**Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD /
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /**

**Sous-commission des relations avec l'OCDE et la BERD
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président

M. Bernard PASQUIER (Monaco, ALDE)

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7.	Mr WELLMANN Karl-Georg (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr ZECH Tobias (EPP/CD)
8.	Ms WERNER Katrin (UEL)	Germany / Allemagne	
9.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr MEIMARAKIS Evangelos (EPP/CD)
10.	Mr COWEN Barry (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
11.	Mr RIGONI Andrea (ALDE)	Italy / Italie	Mr ORELLANA Luis Alberto (ALDE)
12.	Mr BUTKEVIČIUS Algirdas (SOC)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
13.	M. ADAM Claude (SOC)	Luxembourg	
14.	M. PASQUIER Bernard (ALDE)	Monaco	
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23.	Mr BAYKAL Deniz (SOC)	Turkey / Turkey	Mr TORUN Cemalettin Kani (EC)
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Ex-officio:

Mr Mogens JENSEN

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie