



SECRETARIAT

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29 January 2018

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 January 2018

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 January 2018, first with Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) and Lord George Foulkes (United Kingdom, SOC), oldest members present, and then Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD):

Monday 22 January 2018, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:

– **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:** according to Rule 46.2. of the Assembly rules of Procedure, decided to postpone the election of its Chairperson, on the grounds that no candidacy had been put forward by a member belonging to the EPP/CD Group to which the Chair of the Committee was allocated;

Tuesday 23 January 2018, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

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

- elected, by secret ballot, Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Chairperson,
- elected, by acclamation, Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC), 1st Vice-Chairperson,
- elected, by acclamation, Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC), 2nd Vice-Chairperson,
- elected, by acclamation, Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE), 3rd Vice-Chairperson;

– **Reconstitution 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;

– **Debate under urgent procedure: The Israeli–Palestinian peace process: the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): approved a report and adopted a draft resolution;

Wednesday 24 January 2018, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

– **The situation in Kosovo*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Roca, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on recent developments, followed by an exchange of views with the participation of the delegations of Serbia and of the Assembly of Kosovo;

* Throughout this text, all reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- **A commitment to introduce rules to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur: Ms Cheryl Gillan, United Kingdom, EC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, including her declaration of absence of conflict of interest, followed by a hearing with the participation of Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and Mr Alan Renwick, Deputy Director of the Constitution Unit, Department of Political Science, University College London; considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to change the title to: *Updating guidelines to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States*;
- **Appointment of the institutional representatives of the Committee**: 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 (by secret ballot)
 - . Member: Mr Corneliu M. Cozmanniuc (Romania, EPP/CD),
 - . Substitute: Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE),
 - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (by acclamation):
 - . Member: Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC);
- **The political transition in Egypt** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Egypt on 6-7 December 2017, took note of his intention to hold a video exchange of views with the Minister of Education of Egypt at a forthcoming meeting, and considered an information memorandum;

Thursday 25 January 2018, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Debate under urgent procedure: The Israeli–Palestinian peace process: the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): took position on the 6 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs**: appointed the following Rapporteurs, subject to hearing from them a declaration of non-conflict of interest:
 - Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) as Rapporteur on *Identity, role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly as a statutory organ of the Council of Europe, and a pan-European forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue*,
 - Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries*,
 - Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) as Rapporteur on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan*,
 - Mr Corneliu M. Cozmanniuc (Romania, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*,
 - Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) as Rapporteur on *Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism*,
 - Mr Ervin Bushati (Albania, SOC) as Rapporteur on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2018-2019*;
- **Funding of the terrorist group Daesh** (*Rapporteur: Mr Phil Wilson, United Kingdom, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, agreed to change the title to: *Funding of the terrorist Group Daesh: lessons learned*, approved a report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations** (*Rapporteur: Mr Adão Silva, Portugal, EPP/CD*): heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest by the Rapporteur as well as a statement on his fact-finding visit to the United Nations, Geneva on 11-12 December 2017; took note of his intention to hold a hearing on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the UN in the coming months;

- **Consideration of the reply by the Committee of Ministers to Recommendations 2113 and 2114 (2017):** took note of the reply of the Committee of Ministers;
- **Composition of sub-committees:** agreed the proposed membership of its standing Sub-Committees (see Appendix);
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2172 (2017) and Recommendation 2107 (2017) on *The situation in Belarus*:** held an exchange of views with members of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus: Mr Andrei Naumovich, Head of the Working group on the death penalty issues, Chair of the Standing Committee on Human rights, national relations and media, and Ms Anna Kanopatskaya, member of the Working group on death penalty issues and of the Standing Committee on economic issues, respectively from the majority and from the opposition; and was informed that neither a representative of independent civil society nor of opposition political forces not represented in parliament were able to attend this part-session;
- **Requests for extensions of references:** approved the following requests:
 - by Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *The situation in Libya – prospects and role of the Council of Europe*, that the reference be extended until 15 March 2018 due to lack of time to examine the report as foreseen at the beginning of the week, and decided to submit this request to the Bureau of the Assembly,
 - by Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE), Rapporteur on *The political transition in Egypt*, that the reference be extended until the end of June 2018 in order to take into account the Egyptian presidential elections, scheduled to take place on 26-28 March 2018, with a possible second round on 24-26 April 2018, and decided to submit this request to the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **Requests for visit authorisations:** approved the request by Mr Ervin Bushati (Albania, SOC), Rapporteur on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2018-2019*, to attend the 6th OECD Parliamentary Days, Paris, 8-9 February 2018, subject to the availability of funds;
- **Other business:**
 - called for candidates for a report on *Democracy hacked? How to respond*, with a view to appointing a representative at its next meeting;
 - took note of the call for nominations for the 2018 Václav Havel Prize, and of the fact that the deadline for applications was 30 April 2018;
 - was encouraged to participate in a study being carried out by the Assembly jointly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the Chairperson's suggestion to change the Committee meeting in December to 11 instead of 13 December and decided on forthcoming meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 12 March 2018
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 23-27 April 2018
 - Athens, Greece, 22 May 2018
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session, 25-29 June 2018
 - Paris, 11 September 2018
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session, 8-12 October 2018
 - Paris, 13 November 2018
 - Paris, 11 December 2018 (to be confirmed).

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 2018 with first Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) and then Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE), Chairperson, and Mr Phil Wilson (United Kingdom, SOC), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Future work:** asked its Chairperson and the Secretariat to start preparing a meeting of the Sub-Committee to be held in Israel and Palestine in 2018, subject to the availability of funds;
- **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 2018 with first Mr Žarko Obradović (Serbia, SOC) and then Mr Senad Šepić (Bosnia Herzegovina, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Mr Senad Šepić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and Ms Maria Guzenina (Finland, SOC), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Future work:** took note of the intention of Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) to organise a hearing on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the UN, in the format of the full Committee, at one of its next meetings in Strasbourg;
- **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 2018 with first Mr Hendrik Daems (Belgium, ALDE) and then Mr Oleksii Goncharenko (Ukraine, EC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Mr Andrea Rigoni¹ (Italy, ALDE) Chairperson, and Mr Oleksii Goncharenko (Ukraine, EC), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Future work:** took note of the programme of the 6th OECD Parliamentary Days, Paris, 8-9 February 2018 and of the fact that the Committee had authorised the Rapporteur on OECD to attend, subject to the availability of funds;
- **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, A. Salanson

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
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

¹ In accordance with the Assembly Rules of Procedure, this election was subsequently declared invalid as Mr Rigoni had already been elected Chairperson of another Sub-Committee.

APPENDIX

**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 MEMBERS

Chairperson / Président(e)

Ms Kerstin LUNDGREN (Sweden, ALDE)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)

Mr Phil WILSON (United Kingdom, SOC)

Members / Membres

1. Ms RIBERAYGUA Patricia (ALDE)
2. Mr KÖCK Eduard (EPP/CD)
3. Mr MOLLAZADE Asim (NR)
4. Mr VAN DER MAELEN Dirk (SOC)
5. Mr ŠEPIĆ Senad (EPP/CD)
6. Mr LOUCAIDES Georges (UEL)
7. Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)
8. Ms GUZENINA Maria (SOC)
9. Mme DURANTON Nicole (EPP/CD)
10. M. ANGLADE Alexandre (NR)
11. Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)
12. Ms CHUGOSHVILI Tamar (SOC)
13. Mr NICK Andreas (NR)
14. Ms KAVVADIA Ioanneta (UEL)
15. Mr MESTERHÁZY Attila (SOC)
16. Mr CANNEY Seán (NR)
17. Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)
18. Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)
19. Mme BRASSEUR Anne (ALDE)
20. Mr KLICH Bogdan (EPP/CD)
21. Ms MENDES Ana Caterina (SOC)
22. Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)
23. Ms RODRÍGUEZ Soraya (SOC)
24. Ms LUNDGREN Kerstin (ALDE)
25. Mme FIALA Doris (ALDE)
26. Mr TÜRKEŞ Yıldırım Tuğrul (EC)
27. Mr WILSON Phil (SOC)
28. Mr SHEPPARD Tommy (NR)
29. Ms KYRIADKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)

Andorra / Andorre
Austria / Autriche
Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
Belgium / Belgique
Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie Herzégovine
Cyprus / Chypre
Denmark / Danemark
Finland / Finlande
France
France
Georgia / Géorgie
Germany / Allemagne
Greece / Grèce
Hungary / Hongrie
Ireland / Irlande
Italy / Italie
Lithuania / Lituanie
Luxembourg
Poland / Pologne
Portugal
Romania / Roumanie
Spain / Espagne
Sweden / Suède
Switzerland / Suisse
Turkey / Turquie
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
Immediate past President of the Assembly /
Présidente de l'Assemblée sortante

Alternates / Remplaçants

Ms DUMERY Daphné (NR)
Ms EROTOKRITOU Christiana (SOC)
Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)
M. FOURNIER Bernard (EPP/CD)
Mme GOY-CHAVENT Sylvie (EPP/CD)
Ms KASIMATI Nina (UEL)
Mr RIGONI Andrea (ALDE)
Mr HALICKI Andrzej (EPP/CD)
Mr PISCO Paulo (SOC)
Mr KORODI Attila (EPP/CD)
Mr XUCLÀ Jordi (ALDE)
Ms ÅBERG Borianana (EPP/CD)
M. HEER Alfred (ALDE)
Mr KILIÇ Akif Çağatay (EC)
Mr HOWELL John (EC)

Ex-officio:

Ms Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN

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

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

**Sous-commission des relations extérieures
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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)

Ms Maria GUZENINA (Finland, SOC)

Members / Membres

Alternates / Remplaçants

1.	Mr BUSHATI Ervin (SOC)	Albania / Albanie	
2.	M. JORDANA Carles (ALDE)	Andorra / Andorre	
3.	Ms HOVHANNISYAN Arpine (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
4.	Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)
5.	Mr DESTREBECQ Olivier (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	M. Van DER MAELEN Dirk (SOC)
6.	Mr ŠEPIĆ Senad (EPP/CD)	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie Herzégovine	
7.	Mr LOUCAIDES Georges (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	Ms EROTOKRITOU Christiana (SOC)
8.	Mr BENEŠÍK Ondřej (EPP/CD)	Czech Republic / République tchèque	
9.	Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)	Denmark / Danemark	Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)
10.	Ms MIKKO Marianne (SOC)	Estonia / Estonie	
11.	Ms GUZENINA Maria (SOC)	Finland / Finlande	
12.	Mme GOY-CHAVENT Sylvie (EPP/CD)	France	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)
13.	Mr HARDT Jürgen (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr SCHÄFER Axel (SOC)
14.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Ms KAVVADIA Ioanneta (UEL)
15.	Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EPP/CD)	Hungary / Hongrie	
16.	Mr COWEN Barry (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
17.	Mr BUTKEVIČIUS Algirdas (SOC)	Lithuania / Lituanie	Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)
18.	Mme BRASSEUR Anne (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
19.	Mr SEKULIĆ Predrag (SOC)	Montenegro / Monténégro	
20.	Mr BERNACKI Włodzimierz (EC)	Poland / Pologne	Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (ALDE)
21.	Mr SILVA Adão (EPP/CD)	Portugal	Ms MENDES Ana Caterina (SOC)
22.	Mr KORODI Attila (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr ȘTEFAN Corneliu (SOC)
23.	Mr OBRADOVIĆ Žarko (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie	
24.	Mr GUNNARSSON Jonas (SOC)	Sweden / Suède	Ms Boriana ÅBERG (EPP/CD)
25.	Mme SCHNEIDER-SCHNEITER (EPP/CD)	Switzerland / Suisse	
26.	Mr KILIÇ Akif Çağatay (...)	Turkey / Turquie	
27.	Mr CHOPE Christopher (EC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr MCGINN Conor (SOC)
28.	Mme MAURY PASQUIER Liliane (SOC)	Chairperson SOC / Présidente SOC	
29.	Ms KYRIADKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)	Immediate past President of the Assembly / Présidente de l'Assemblée sortante	

Ex-officio:

Ms Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN

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

Waiting list:

Ms Lia QUARTAPELLE PROCOPIO (SOC)	Italy / Italie	
Ms KATSARAVA Sofio (SOC)	Georgia / Géorgie	
Ms SOTNYK Olena (ALDE)	Ukraine	Mr GONCHARENKO Oleksii (EC)
Mr AMON Werner (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	Mr GRAF Martin (NR)
Mr LINK Michael (ALDE)	Germany / Allemagne	
Mr MOLLAZADE Asim (NR)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	

**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
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29 seats / 29 sièges

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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)

Mr Oleksii GONCHARENKO (Ukraine, EC)

Members / Membres

Alternates / Remplaçants

1.	Mr BUSHATI Ervin (SOC)	Albania / Albanie	
2.	Ms HOVHANNISYAN Arpine (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie	
3.	Mr AMON Werner (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	
4.	Mr DAEMS Hendrik (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	Ms DUMERY Daphné (NR)
5.	Ms KALMARI Anne (ALDE)	Finland / Finlande	
6.	Mr MAIRE Jacques (NR)	France	Mr ABAD Damien (EPP/CD)
7.	Ms KATSARAVA Sofio (SOC)	Georgia / Géorgie	
8.	Ms BARNETT Doris (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr NICK Andreas (NR)
9.	Mr SCHÄFER Axel (SOC)	Germany / Allemagne	
10.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr MEIMARAKIS Evangelos (EPP/CD)
11.	Mr COWEN Barry (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
12.	Mr RIGONI Andrea (ALDE)	Italy / Italie	Mr ORELLANA Luis Alberto (SOC)
13.	Mr BUTKEVIČIUS Algirdas (SOC)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
14.	Mr SEKULIĆ Predrag (SOC)	Montenegro / Monténégro	
15.	Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr POPA Ion (EPP/CD)
16.	Ms TOMIĆ Aleksandra (EPP/CD)	Serbia / Serbie	
17.	Mr LOGAR Anže (EPP/CD)	Slovenia / Slovénie	
18.	Mr KARLSSON Niklas (SOC)	Sweden / Suède	Mr GUNNARSSON Jonas (SOC)
19.	M. HEER Alfred (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse	Mme FIALA Doris (ALDE)
20.	Mr BAYKAL Deniz (SOC)	Turkey / Turquie	Mr TORUN Cemalettin Kani (EC)
21.	Mr GONCHARENKO Oleksii (EC)	Ukraine	Ms SOTNYK Olena (ALDE)
22.	Ms GILLAN Cheryl (EC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Lord FOULKES George (SOC)
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Ex-officio:

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