



SECRETARIAT

AS/PoI (2018) CB 07

15 October 2018

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 8 to 11 October 2018

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 8 to 11 October 2018, with Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

Monday 8 October 2018, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9,

- **decided to open to the public the following items:**
 - hearing on *Updating guidelines to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States*,
 - exchange of views with Ms Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;

as regards:

- **Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, including a declaration of absence of conflict of interest, considered an introductory memorandum and decided to declassify it, and held an exchange of views;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2215 (2018) and Recommendation 2127 (2018) on The situation in Libya: prospects and role of the Council of Europe** (*Former Rapporteur: Mr Attila Korodi, Romania, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the former Rapporteur and took note of the reply by the Committee of Ministers;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2166 (2017) and Recommendation 2103 (2017) on the Political transition in Tunisia** (*Former Rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL*): heard a statement by the former Rapporteur and took note of the reply by the Committee of Ministers;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: heard a statement by Mr Bernard Sabella on the role of Europe in the search for a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict;

Tuesday, 9 October 2018, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Regulating foreign funding of Islam in Europe to prevent radicalisation and Islamophobia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Doris Fiala, Switzerland, ALDE*): took position on 5 amendments to the draft resolution;

- **Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations** (*Rapporteur: Mr Adão Silva, Portugal, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to his proposal to change the title of the report as follows: *Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;
- **Meeting of the Sub-Committee on External Relations, UN Headquarters, New York, 5-6 December 2018**: took note that this meeting was authorised by the Bureau of the Assembly, heard a statement by the Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on its preparation, and decided that this meeting would be restricted to members only;
- **Appointment of Rapporteur**: appointed Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Compatibility of Sharia Law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the “Cairo Declaration”?* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **World Forum for Democracy on Gender Equality: Whose Battle?** (Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2018): took note of the programme of the Forum and proposed that Mr Jordi Roca (Spain, EPP/CD) be added to the list of members of the *ad hoc* committee of the Bureau;

Wednesday, 10 October 2018, 14:45 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:

- **Updating guidelines to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur: Dame Cheryl Gillan, United Kingdom, EC*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Nicos C. Alivizatos, Professor of Constitutional Law, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Athens, and expert of the Venice Commission on referendums; considered a preliminary draft report and decided to declassify it; took note of the Rapporteur’s intention to send the preliminary draft report to all members inviting them to send her their comments/suggestions before 30 October 2018;

Thursday, 11 October 2018, 09:00 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Institutional representation of the Committee**: heard a statement by Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) on his participation in the 76th plenary meeting of the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Strasbourg, 19-22 June 2018;
- **Parliamentary Conference on “Building democratic security in the Mediterranean: common challenges, shared responsibility”, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 6 November 2018**: took note of the revised draft programme; approved the composition of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee; was informed that the Conference was open to all members; was reminded that participation forms should be returned by 15 October 2018; and appointed Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL) as Chairperson of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee;
- **Exchange of views with Ms Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe**: heard a statement from, and held an exchange of views with, Ms Mijatović on her priorities and current activities;
- **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees**: approved the following changes:
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations:
Ms Jutta Urpilainen (Finland, SOC) to become alternate to Ms Maria Guzenina (SOC),
Ms Boriána Åberg (Sweden, EPP/CD) to become member instead of Mr Jonas Gunnarsson,
 - Sub-Committee on relations on the OECD and the EBRD:
Mr Ahmet Ünal Çeviköz (Turkey, SOC) to become member with Ms Emine Nur Günay (EC) as his alternate;

- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL), Rapporteur on the *Role and mission of the Assembly: main challenges for the future*, to hold bilateral contacts with the Finnish authorities in the context of the preparation of his report in conjunction with the Standing Committee meeting in Helsinki (23 November 2018);
- **Next meetings:** decided on forthcoming meetings as follows:
 - Dubrovnik, 6 November 2018, *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the Conference on “Building democratic security in the Mediterranean: common challenges, shared responsibility”
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations, United Nations, New York, 5-6 December 2018
 - Paris, 11 December 2018.

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

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
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
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