



SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2019) CB 01
25 January 2019

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 21 to 24 January 2019

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 21 to 24 January 2019, first with Mr Henk Overbeek (Netherlands, UEL), senior member present, and then Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD):

Monday 21 January 2019, 14:00 – 15:00, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**
 - re-elected, by acclamation, Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Chairperson,
 - re-elected, by acclamation, Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC), 1st Vice-Chairperson,
 - elected, by acclamation, Lord David Blencathra (United Kingdom, EC), 2nd Vice-Chairperson,
 - re-elected, by acclamation, Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE), 3rd Vice-Chairperson;
- **Invitation to its meetings during the Assembly 2019 Ordinary Session:**
 - decided, in accordance with paragraph 7.3. of Resolution 2172 (2017) on *The situation in Belarus*, to invite members of the National Assembly of Belarus, from the majority and the opposition, as well as representatives of independent civil society and of opposition political forces not represented in parliament, to attend its meetings during the Assembly 2019 part-sessions,
 - decided, in accordance with Resolution 1376 (2004) and with the decision of the Bureau of the Assembly of 4 October 2004 approved the same day by the Assembly, and according to Article 48.7 of the Rules of Procedure, to invite the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend its meetings during the Assembly 2019 Ordinary Session;
- **Debate under urgent procedure: The escalation of tensions around the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait and threats to European security:** appointed Mr Andreas Nick (Germany, EPP/CD) Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Compatibility of Sharia Law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the “Cairo Declaration”?** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC*): considered and approved an opinion, including 5 amendments to the draft resolution, with one amendment suggesting a change of title;

Tuesday 22 January 2019, 08:30 – 10:00, as regards:

- **Media freedom as a condition for democratic elections** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Olena Sotnyk, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered and approved an opinion, including 6 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Updating guidelines to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur: Dame Cheryl Gillan, United Kingdom, EC*): took position on 1 amendment to the draft resolution;

- **The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries** (*Rapporteur: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): took note of a written statement by the Rapporteur and of her intention to present a draft report at the meeting of the Committee on 5 March 2019, with a view to an Assembly debate during the April 2019 part-session;
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, including a declaration of absence of conflict of interest, followed by an exchange of views with the Jordanian partner for democracy delegation;
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Corneliu M. Cozmanniciu, Romania, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views with the Kyrgyz partner for democracy delegation, and agreed to request to the Bureau of the Assembly an authorisation for the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kyrgyzstan in 2019, in the framework of his report (subject to the availability of funds);
- **Reconstitution of Sub-Committees**: decided to reconstitute the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World and the Sub-Committee on External Relations; and not to reconstitute the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD;

Tuesday 22 January 2019, 14:00 – 15:00, as regards:

- **Composition of sub-committees**: appointed the members of its standing Sub-Committees (see Appendix);
- **Debate under urgent procedure: The escalation of tensions around the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait and threats to European security** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Nick, Germany, EPP/CD*): considered a report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (*Rapporteur: Mr Adão Silva, Portugal, EPP/CD*): considered an outline for report presented by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views;
- **Work programme:**
 - **Follow-up to Resolution 2221 (2018) and Recommendation 2131 (2018) on Counter-narratives to terrorism**: took note of the reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers;
 - **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 acclamation):
 - . Member: Mr Corneliu M. Cozmanniciu (Romania, EPP/CD)
 - . Substitute: to be appointed
 - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (by acclamation):
 - . Member: Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC)
 - . Substitute: Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD);

Wednesday 23 January 2019, 14:00 – 15:30, as regards:

- **Conference “Building democratic security in the Mediterranean: common challenges, shared responsibility”, Dubrovnik, 6 November 2018**: heard a summing up and follow-up proposals by the Chairperson of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee, Mr George Loucaides, and agreed to his proposal to organise, during the April 2019 part-session of the Assembly, an exchange of views with members of partner for democracy delegations with a view to assessing the functioning of the partner for democracy status;

- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Ambassador Katrin Kivi, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the Council of Europe and Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations of the Committee of Ministers (GR-EXT), Ms Amina Bouayach, Chairperson of the Moroccan National Human Rights Council, and Mr Driss Guerraoui, Chairperson of the Moroccan Council of Competition and former Secretary General of the Social, Economic and Environmental Council, in the presence of Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; agreed that an addendum to the report would be prepared by the Rapporteur, with a view to an Assembly debate during the April 2019 part-session;

Thursday 24 January 2019, 09:00 – 10:00, as regards:

- **Debate under urgent procedure: The escalation of tensions around the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait and threats to European security** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Nick, Germany, EPP/CD*): took position on 3 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Promoting democracy by developing market economy: does the EBRD model work?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hendrik Daems, Belgium, ALDE*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly: main challenges for the future** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his contacts in Helsinki, in the framework of the Finnish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament, with the former President of Finland, Ms Tarja Halonen, and, together with the President of the Assembly, with the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Mr Matti Anttonen; welcomed the invitation addressed to Mr Anttonen and the President of the Assembly to hold an exchange of views with the committee, in the context of the preparation of the report, at its next meeting on 5 March 2019, in Paris;
- **Relations between the Assembly and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**: took note of a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of an exchange of letters between Mr Wojciech Sawicki, Secretary General of the Assembly, and Mr Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the OECD; agreed to the proposed procedures regarding reports on the activities of the OECD and decided to inform the Bureau of the Assembly accordingly;
- **Work programme (continued)**: took note of the invitation and programme regarding the Conference on *Countering International Terrorism*, which will take place in Saint Petersburg on 18 April 2019, agreed to set-up an *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly and to the availability of funds), and invited members interested in attending to inform the Secretariat before 5 March 2019;
- **Authorisations by the Committee**: authorised:
 - Mr Ervin Bushati (Albania, SOC), Rapporteur on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2018-2019* to participate in the 7th OECD Parliamentary Days, to be held in Paris from 13 to 15 February 2019 (subject to the availability of funds),
 - Mr Jordi Roca (Spain, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *The situation in Kosovo*¹, to pay a fact-finding visit to Belgrade and Pristina in 2019 (subject to the availability of funds),
 - Mr Frithjof Schmidt (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur on *Democracy hacked? How to respond?*, to pay a fact-finding visit to Stockholm in 2019 (subject to the availability of funds);
- **Other business**: took note of the call for nominations for the 2019 Václav Havel Prize, and of the fact that the deadline for applications was 30 April 2019;

¹ 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.

- **Next meetings:** took note of a preliminary draft programme for the meeting in Berlin on 14 November 2019 and decided on the forthcoming meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 5 March 2019
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 8-12 April 2019
 - Paris, 20 May 2019
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session, 24-28 June 2019
 - Paris, 11 September 2019 (tbc)
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session, 30 September-4 October 2019
 - Berlin, 14 November 2019 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly) [AS/Pol/Inf (2019) 03]
 - Paris, 9 December 2019.

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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 22 January 2019 with first Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee, and then Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), Chairperson, and re-elected, by acclamation, Mr Phil Wilson (United Kingdom, SOC), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Future work:** held an exchange of views on future work; heard a statement by Mr Corlăţean, Rapporteur, on his report on *A two-state solution in Israel and Palestine*; regretted that it had not been able to meet in the region since November 2014 and agreed to try to organise such a meeting in 2019 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly and 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 22 January 2019 with first Mr José Badia (Monaco, EPP/CD), senior member present, and then Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Ms Maria Guzenina (Finland, SOC), Chairperson, and Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Meeting of the Sub-Committee, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 5-6 December 2018:** took note that the issue had already been discussed in the full Committee;
- **Future work:** held an exchange of views and agreed to revert to this issue at one of its next meetings in the presence of its Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene its next meeting.

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

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 MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président

Mr George LOUCAIDES (Cyprus, UEL)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président

Mr Phil WILSON (United Kingdom, SOC)

Members / Membres

1.	Ms RIBERAYGUA Patrícia (ALDE)	Andorra / Andorre
2.	Mr IGITYAN Hovhannes (NR)	Armenia / Arménie
3.	Mr KÖCK Eduard (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche
4.	Mr MOLLAZADE Asim (NR)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
5.	Mr VAN DER MAELEN Dirk (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique
6.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre
7.	Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)	Denmark / Danemark
8.	Ms URPILAINEN Jutta (SOC)	Finland / Finlande
9.	Ms GUZENINA Maria (SOC)	Finland / Finlande
10.	Mme DURANTON Nicole (EPP/CD)	France
11.	M. KERN Claude (ALDE)	France
12.	Ms CHUGOSHVILI Tamar (SOC)	Georgia / Géorgie
13.	Mr NICK Andreas (NR)	Germany / Allemagne
14.	Ms KAVVADIA Ioanneta (UEL)	Greece / Grèce
15.	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande
16.	Mr FASSINO Piero (SOC)	Italy / Italie
17.	Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)	Lithuania / Lituanie
18.	Mme MUTSCH Lydia (SOC)	Luxembourg
19.	Mr KLICH Bogdan (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
20.	Ms MENDES Ana Caterina (SOC)	Portugal
21.	Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie
22.	Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu M. (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie NO
23.	Mr ŠIRCELJ Andrej (EPP/CD)	Slovenia / Slovénie
24.	Mr XUCLÀ Jordi (ALDE)	Spain / Espagne
25.	Mr HAMMARBERG Thomas (SOC)	Sweden / Suède
26.	Mme FIALA Doris (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse
27.	Mr TÜRKEŞ Yıldırım Tuğrul (EC)	Turkey / Turquie
28.	Mr WILSON Phil (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
29.	Mr SHEPPARD Tommy (NR)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Alternates / Remplaçants

Ms DUMERY Daphné (NR)
Ms KYRIADKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)
Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)
Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)
M. FOURNIER Bernard (EPP/CD)
Ms KASIMATI Nina (UEL)
Mr COWEN Barry (ALDE)
Ms DE CARLO Sabrina (NR)
Mr HALICKI Andrzej (EPP/CD)
Mr PISCO Paulo (SOC)
Mr KORODI Attila (EPP/CD)
Ms ÅBERG Boriana (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 /
Présidente 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
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Présidente

Ms Maria GUZENINA (Finland, SOC)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président

Mr Adão SILVA (Portugal, EPP/CD)

Members / Membres

Alternates / Remplaçants

1.	M. JORDANA Carles (ALDE)	Andorra / Andorre	
2.	Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (NR)	Armenia / Arménie	Mr IGITYAN Hovhannes (NR)
3.	Mr AMON Werner (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche	Mr GRAF Martin (NR)
4.	Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)
5.	Mr DAEMS Hendrik (ALDE)	Belgium / Belgique	Mr DESTREBECQ Olivier (ALDE)
6.	Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	Ms KYRIADKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)
7.	Mr BENEŠÍK Ondřej (EPP/CD)	Czech Republic / République tchèque	
8.	Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE)	Denmark / Danemark	Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)
9.	Ms GUZENINA Maria (SOC)	Finland / Finlande	
10.	Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC)	France	
11.	Ms KATSARAVA Sofio (SOC)	Georgia / Géorgie	Mr SCHÄFER Axel (SOC)
12.	Mr HARDT Jürgen (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne	Ms KAVVADIA Ioanneta (UEL)
13.	Ms BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	
14.	Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EPP/CD)	Hungary / Hongrie	Mr TROY Robert (ALDE)
15.	Mr COWEN Barry (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)
16.	Mr RIBOLLA Alberto (NR)	Italy / Italie	
17.	M. GRAAS Gusty (ALDE)	Luxembourg	
18.	M. BADIA José (EPP/CD)	Monaco	
19.	Mr SEKULIĆ Predrag (SOC)	Montenegro / Monténégro	
20.	Mr BERNACKI Włodzimierz (EC)	Poland / Pologne	Mr MIESZKOWSKI Krzysztof (ALDE)
21.	Mr SILVA Adão (EPP/CD)	Portugal	Ms MENDES Ana Caterina (SOC)
22.	Mr KORODI Attila (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr CUC Alexandru Răzvan (NR)
23.	Mr ŠIRCELJ Andrej (EPP/CD)	Slovenia / Slovénie	
24.	Mr CEPEDA José (SOC)	Spain / Espagne	
25.	Ms ÅBERG Boriána (EPP/CD) YES	Sweden / Suède	
26.	Mme SCHNEIDER-SCHNEITER (EPP/CD)	Switzerland / Suisse	Mr LOMBARDI Filippo (EPP/CD)
27.	Mr KILIÇ Akif Çağatay (EC)	Turkey / Turquie	Mr ÇEVİKÖZ Ahmet Ünal (SOC)
28.	Ms SOTNYK Olena (ALDE)	Ukraine	Mr GONCHARENKO Oleksii (EC)
29.	Mr CHOPE Christopher (EC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr MCGINN Conor (SOC)

Ex-officio:

Ms Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN

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

Waiting list:

Mr OBRADOVIĆ Žarko (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie
Mr BUTKEVIČIUS Algirdas (SOC)	Lithuania / Lituanie
Mr LINK Michael (ALDE)	Germany / Allemagne
Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu Mugurel (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie