



SECRETARIAT

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7 March 2019

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 5 March 2019

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 5 March 2019, with Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly: main challenges for the future** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, and Ms Nina Nordström, Director, Unit for Human Rights Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, considered a memorandum, authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Brussels in April (subject to the availability of funds), and took note that he would present a draft report at the next Committee meeting during the April part-session;
- **Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (*Rapporteur: Mr Adão Silva, Portugal, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **The situation in Syria and its effects upon surrounding countries** (*Rapporteur: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Salam Kawakibi, Director of the Arab Centre for Research and Political studies in Paris, agreed to the proposal by the Rapporteur to change the title of the report as follows: *The situation in Syria: prospects for a political solution?*, considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Open discussion on current issues:**
 - held an exchange of views with Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director, Information Society – Action against Crime, Council of Europe Internet Governance Co-ordinator on *Artificial intelligence and challenges to democracy*, and agreed to consider a motion for a resolution on this subject at its next meeting with a view to tabling it on behalf of the Committee,
 - heard a statement by Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark SOC), Rapporteur on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan*, concerning the death penalty in Jordan, and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Titus Corlăţean, General Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly on the abolition of the death penalty and the partner for democracy delegation of Jordan;
- **Strengthening parliamentary dialogue with Algeria** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jacques Maire, France, NR*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, agreed to organise an exchange of views with representatives of the Algerian Parliament during the April part-session and approved the request of the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Algeria in 2019 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds);

- **Conference on Countering International Terrorism (St Petersburg, 18 April 2019):** took note of the draft programme and appointed the members of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee;
- **Work programme:**
 - heard a statement by Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC), Rapporteur on *A two-State solution in Israel and Palestine* and agreed to request from the Bureau of the Assembly an extension of the reference until 30 May 2020,
 - in the framework of the Assembly's institutional representation, appointed Lord George Foulkes (United Kingdom, SOC) as substitute to the Council for democratic elections of the Venice Commission,
 - appointed Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC) Rapporteur for opinion on *Fighting corruption – General principles of political responsibility* and took note that she had no conflict of interest;
- **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;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 8-12 April 2019
 - Saint Petersburg, *ad hoc* Sub-Committee, 18 April 2019
 - Paris, 20 May 2019 (tbc)
 - 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
 - Paris, 9 December 2019.