



AS/Pol (2020) CB 04  
10 September 2020

## To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### Synopsis of the meeting held by videoconference on 8 September 2020

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting by videoconference on 8 September 2020, with Dame Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair:

#### Tuesday 8 September 2020, 10 am – 12.30 pm, as regards:

- **Open discussion on current issues:** held exchanges of views on:
  - . **The situation in Belarus following Presidential elections on 9 August 2020** with the participation of Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly; Ms Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, former Belarusian presidential candidate; and Mr Andrei Savinykh, Chairperson of the Standing Commission on International Affairs of the National Assembly of Belarus (open to the public);
  - . **Escalation of tensions at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan** with the participation of Mr Ruben Rubinyan, Chairperson of the Armenian delegation to the Assembly, and Mr Samad Seyidov, Chairperson of the Azeri delegation to the Assembly;

#### Tuesday 8 September 2020, 2.30 pm – 5 pm, as regards:

- **Need for democratic governance of artificial intelligence** (*Rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by Mr Gregor Stojin, Chairperson of the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI); considered the draft report, including a preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation;<sup>1</sup>
- **Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as a cornerstone of the European political architecture** (*Rapporteur: Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Iceland, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views;
- **More participatory democracy to tackle climate change** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views;
- **Fostering healthy democracies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marie-Christine Dalloz, France, EPP/DC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to request a contribution by the Venice Commission with a view to gaining a better understanding of the Council of Europe's constitutional *acquis* in this area;
- **Open discussion on current issues (continued):** held exchanges of views on:
  - . **Rising tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean** with the participation of Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Chairperson of the Greek delegation to the Assembly, and Mr Ahmet Yıldız, Chairperson of the Turkish delegation to the Assembly;

<sup>1</sup> Following detailed verification of the nominal vote results, available after the end of the meeting, the vote cast on the preliminary draft resolution and recommendation was not valid because of the absence of the required quorum and will be repeated at the next meeting of the Committee on 23 September 2020.

This document is available on the Parliamentary Assembly Extranet website (restricted area for PACE Members)

<http://assembly.coe.int/extranet>.

- . **Request by the Chairperson of the ALDE group, on behalf of the group, to discuss the situation concerning Alexey Navalny** with the participation of Mr Jacques Maire, Chairperson of the ALDE Group;
- **Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?:** appointed, by acclamation, Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests; heard a statement by Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World; held an exchange of views on the follow up to the current affairs debate (of the January 2020 part-session) and the scope of the report;
- **Next meetings**
  - Via videoconference, 23 September 2020 (confirmed)
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's October part-session, 12-16 October 2020
  - November 2020, date and place to be confirmed
  - 9 December 2020, place to be confirmed

D. Chatzivassiliou, P. Chevtchenko, S. Arzilli, A. Elveriş

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