



AS/Pol (2020) CB 05  
24 September 2020

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held by videoconference on 23 September 2020

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting by videoconference on 23 September 2020, with Dame Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair:

#### Wednesday 23 September 2020, 10 am – 12.30 pm, as regards:

- **Democracies facing the Covid-19 pandemic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): considered a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Need for democratic governance of artificial intelligence** (*Rapporteur: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): adopted unanimously a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs**: appointed:

Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (*Finland, SOC*), Rapporteur on *Call for an inclusive national political process in Belarus*;

Lord David Blencathra (*United Kingdom, EC/DA*), Rapporteur on *Urgent need for electoral reform in Belarus*;

Ms Marija Golubeva (*Latvia, ALDE*), Rapporteur on *Relationship between the parliamentary majority and the opposition in a democracy*;

and heard from them their declarations of absence of conflict of interests;

#### Wednesday 23 September 2020, 2.30 pm – 5 pm, as regards:

- **The situation in Belarus following the presidential election of 9 August 2020:**
  - . **Call of an inclusive national political process in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
  - . **Urgent need for electoral reform in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Lord David Blencathra, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;and held an exchange of views with Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission;
- **Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views, with the participation of Ms Sheran Haskel, member of the Israeli Knesset;
- **Strengthening parliamentary dialogue with Algeria** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jacques Maire, France, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and considered an introductory memorandum;

- **Other business:** agreed to the following changes in the Sub-Committees:

Sub-Committee on External Relations

Turkey - Mr Ahmet Yıldız (NR) becomes member following the departure of Mr Akif Kılıç;

Switzerland – Ms Marianne Maret (NR) becomes member following the departure of Mr Charles Juillard.

Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World

Turkey - Mr Mehmet Mehdi Eker (NR) becomes member with Mr Ahmet Yıldız (NR) as his alternate.

- **Future work:** agreed to hold an exchange of views with invited guests at its next meeting, on the following reports:
  - Transparency and regulation of donations to political parties and electoral campaigns from foreign donors (*Rapporteur: Mr Konstantin Kuhle, Germany, ALDE*);
  - More participatory democracy to tackle climate change (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreu, Greece, SOC*);
- **Next meetings:**
  - Via videoconference, 15 October (afternoon) 2020
  - Via videoconference, 2 November 2020 (*tbc*)
  - 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