



AS/Pol (2020) CB 07
14 December 2020

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held by videoconference on 10 December 2020

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting by videoconference on 10 December 2020, with the first Vice-Chairperson, Mr Andreas Nick (Germany, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- **1388bis meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (18 November 2020, meeting by videoconference):** took note of the Athens Declaration, the Standing Committee Declaration on the parliamentary contribution to the Athens Declaration, the Stocktaking of the Greek Chairmanship and Priorities of the German Presidency;
- **Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society:** heard a statement by the first Vice-Chairperson, Mr Andreas Nick, on the joint hearing with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance held on 27 November 2020 via videoconference;
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs:** appointed by acclamation:

Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *Safeguarding peace and stability in the East Mediterranean Sea*;

Mr Georgios Katrougkalos (Greece, UEL), Rapporteur on *The impact of Brexit on human rights on the island of Ireland*;

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

- **Ten years after the Lisbon Treaty: strengthening Council of Europe and European Union co-operation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by a hearing including on EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, high-level political dialogue, rule of law developments and co-operation with the European Parliament, which was open to the public and livestreamed, with the participation of Ms Fabienne Keller, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs; Mr Sandro Gozi, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs; Mr Stefano Sannino, Deputy Secretary General for Global and Economic Issues, European External Action Service (appointed Secretary General of the EEAS as of 1 January 2021); Mr Jeroen Hooijer, Head of Unit, "Inter-institutional – international coordination", Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission; and Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe;
- **Follow up to Resolution 2303 (2019) and Recommendation 2164 (2019) Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism** (*Former Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the former Rapporteur, considered the reply by the Committee of Ministers and held an exchange of views;
- **Assessing the functioning of the partnership for democracy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by a statement by Ambassador Rémi Mortier, Permanent Representative of Monaco, Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations of the Committee of Ministers, on the Council of Europe Neighbourhood Policy and held an exchange with representatives of Partner for Democracy delegations of Morocco and Palestine;

- **Urgent need for electoral reform in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Lord David Blencathra, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, considered an introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views;
- **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, considered an outline for report and held an exchange of views;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: held an exchange of views on *The situation in and around Nagorno-Karabakh* with the participation of Mr Samad Seyidov, Chairperson of the Azerbaijani delegation and Mr Ruben Rubinyan, Chairperson of the Armenian delegation;
- **Work Programme**
 - called for candidates for the reports on *Protecting the pillars of democracy during health crises*, on *Justice and security for women in peace reconciliation* (for opinion) and on *Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* (subject to reference);
 - Progress of reports – fact-finding missions via videoconference: took note of the bilateral meetings held, via videoconference, by Mr Peter Beyer, Rapporteur on the *Situation in Kosovo**, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
- **Proposals for 2021 meetings**: agreed to hold its meetings in 2021 as follows:
 - . During the Assembly's 1st part-session, 25-29 January 2021
 - . 4 February 2021 (*tbc*)
 - . 10 March 2021
 - . During the Assembly's 2nd part-session, 19-23 April 2021
 - . 11 May 2021
 - . During the Assembly's 3rd part-session, 21-25 June 2021
 - . During the Assembly's 4th part-session, 27 September-1 October 2021
 - . 4 November 2021
 - . 6 December 2021

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

* 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.