



AS/Pol (2021) CB 03

1st April 2021

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis

of the meeting held by videoconference on 30 March 2021

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting by videoconference on 30 March 2021, with first Mr Andreas Nick (Germany, EPP/CD), first Vice-Chairperson, and then Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), third Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **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, held a hearing with the participation of Ms Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission, Democracy and Demography, and Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Member of the European Parliament, Chairperson of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (Spain – Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats), followed by an exchange of views;
- **The Assembly's vision on the strategic priorities for the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended and a draft recommendation;
- **Fighting fiscal injustice: the work of the OECD on taxation of digital economy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Katrougkalos, Greece, UEL*): agreed to change the title (previously "Fighting fiscal injustice and the work of the OECD on taxation of digital economy"); considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Urgent need for electoral reform in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Lord David Blencathra, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended and a draft recommendation;
- **Transparency and regulation of donations to political parties and electoral campaigns from foreign donors** (*Rapporteur: Mr Konstantin Kuhle, Germany, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to declassify it;
- **Work programme**

. Appointment of Rapporteurs:

appointed in his absence and by acclamation:

Mr Andreas Nick (Germany, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as a cornerstone of the European political architecture*, subject to hearing from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;

due to the absence of candidacies, postponed the appointment of a Rapporteur on *Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* to its next meeting;

. **Joint Conference "Global challenges and threats in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Terrorism and Violent Extremism", 15 April 2021 (by videoconference)**: heard a statement by the Chairperson and took note that the President of the Assembly suggested that the Committee participate in this conference on behalf of the Assembly and organise a working session on "Democracies facing the Covid-19 pandemic", and encouraged also to involve the Rapporteurs and members of other Committees having contributed to Assembly debates on Covid-19 pandemic;

- **Sub-Committee on External Relations:** in the absence of the Sub-Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, took note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the organisation of a working session on “Democracies facing the Covid-19 pandemic” in the framework of the Joint Conference “Global challenges and threats in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Terrorism and Violent Extremism” (15 April 2021, by videoconference);
- **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World:** heard a statement by Mr Georgios Katrougkalos (Greece, UEL), the Sub-Committee Chairperson;
- **Open discussion on current issues:** held an exchange of views on issues raised by members, *inter alia*:
 - . Follow up to the case of Alexei Navalny and recent developments in the Russian Federation, and took note that the Chairpersons of Political Groups have tabled a request for an urgent debate on “The arrest and detention of Alexei Navalny in January 2021” during the April part-session;
 - . Disturbing developments in Ukraine and Latvia;
 - . Recent developments in Turkey and took note that the Chairpersons of Political Groups have tabled a request for an urgent debate on “The functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey” during the April part-session;
- **Other business:** agreed to the following changes in the Sub-Committees:
 - Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World
Mr Ioan MANG (NR) becomes alternate to Mr Titus CORLĂȚEAN;
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations
Mr Ionuț-Marian STROE (NR) becomes member and Mr Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC (EPP/CD) becomes his alternate (instead of being a full member);
- **Next meetings:**

Full Committee:

- . During the Assembly’s 2nd part-session, 19-22 April 2021, hybrid mode
- . 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

Sub-Committee on External Relations: 15 April 2021 (1pm – 3pm Central European Summer Time), Joint Conference “Global challenges and threats in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Terrorism and Violent Extremism” (by videoconference)

Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World: 11 May 2021 (3pm – 4.30pm Central European Summer Time) – timing to be confirmed

P. Chevtchenko, S. Arzilli, A. Elveriş, M. Huot

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