



AS/Pol (2021) CB 04
22 April 2021

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in hybrid mode on 19 and 20 April 2021

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in hybrid mode on 19 and 20 April 2021, with first Mr Andreas Nick (Germany, EPP/CD), first Vice-Chairperson, and then Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 20 April 2021 at 2 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **Tribute to Dame Cheryl Gillan**: held a minute of silence in memory of Dame Cheryl Gillan, Chairperson of the Committee from January 2020 to April 2021;
 - **Election of the Chairperson**: elected, by acclamation, Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson;
 - **The Assembly's vision on the strategic priorities for the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): took position on 15 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Fighting fiscal injustice: the work of the OECD on taxation of digital economy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Katrougkalos, Greece, UEL*): took position on 8 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **on Tuesday 21 April at 6 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **Urgent need for electoral reform in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Lord David Blencathra, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): took position on 3 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Appointment of Rapporteurs**:
 - . appointed, further to a vote by secret ballot, Mr Jacques Maire (France, ALDE), Rapporteur on *Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests,
 - . heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interests from Mr Andreas Nick (Germany, EPP/CD) who had been appointed Rapporteur on *Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as a cornerstone of the European political architecture* on 30 March 2021, in his absence;
 - **Sub-Committee on External Relations**: heard a statement by Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the participation in the Joint Conference "Global challenges and threats in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Terrorism and Violent Extremism", held via videoconference on 15 April 2021;
 - **Changes to the membership of Sub-Committees**:
 - . took note of the updated lists of its Sub-Committees on the Middle East and the Arab World and on External Relations;

– **Open discussion on current issues:**

. agreed to follow closely the rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine and the situation at the Eastern borders of Ukraine, and took note that the Chairperson may call an additional meeting of the Committee should the circumstances require it;

– **Other business:**

. heard a statement by Mr Jacques Maire (France, ALDE), Rapporteur on *Strengthening parliamentary dialogue with Algeria* and agreed to his request to remove the report from the Committee's work programme and to inform the Bureau of the Assembly accordingly;

– **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- . 11 May 2021 (by videoconference, tbc)
- . 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 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
Director 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