



AS/Pol (2021) CB 06
24 June 2021

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in a hybrid manner from 21 to 23 June 2021

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in a hybrid manner from 21-23 June 2021, with Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **On Monday 21 June 2021 at 2pm**, as regards:
 - **Call for an inclusive national political process in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): took note of the motion for a resolution “Forced migration due to political repressions” (Doc. 15249), to be taken into account in the preparation of the report; held an exchange of views following a statement by the Rapporteur; and, in addition to the fact-finding visit to Belarus which had already been authorised by the Bureau of the Assembly, authorised him to carry out fact-findings to meet relevant Belarusian political stakeholders living abroad (subject to the availability of funds);
 - **131st Session of the Committee of Ministers (21 May 2021, Hamburg (Germany) and by videoconference)**: heard statements by Mr Andreas Nick, Chairperson of the German delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, and Mr Matthias Heinz, Deputy Permanent Representative of the German Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe, on the stocktaking of the German Presidency; heard statements by Mr Zsolt Németh, Chairperson of the Hungarian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, and Ambassador Harry Alex Ruzs, Chair of the Ministers’ Deputies, Hungarian Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, on the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency, followed by an exchange of views;
- **On Tuesday 22 June 2021 at 8am**, as regards:
 - **More participatory democracy to tackle climate change** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **World Forum for Democracy on "Can Democracy Save the Environment?"** (Strasbourg, 8-10 November 2021): held an exchange of views with Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance of the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe, and appointed the following members to the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum:
 - Mr Ahmet Ünal Çeviköz (Turkey, SOC)
 - Ms Emine Nur Günay (Turkey, NR)
 - Mr Bogdan Klich (Poland, EPP/CD)
 - Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC)
 - Mr Ahmet Yıldız (Turkey, NR)
- **Review of the Partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jacques Maire, France, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views, and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kyrgyzstan (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds);

– **Work programme:**

. **References:** Following a statement by Ms Dora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) on a motion for a resolution on “The need for renewed, effective and inclusive multilateralism”, which would be tabled during the third part-session by her and other members of the Assembly, held an exchange of views; expressed support for the new motion; decided to remove the motion for a resolution on “Reshaping the foundations of multilateralism” (Doc. 14588) from its Work Programme and asked its Chairperson to inform the Bureau accordingly;

. **Call for candidates as rapporteur:** called for candidates on:

. Establishment of a “youth partner” status with the Parliamentary Assembly

. Relationship between the parliamentary majority and the opposition in a democracy

. **Meetings outside Strasbourg:**

. considered and accepted the invitation to hold a meeting in Budapest on 3-4 November 2021 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds);

. considered and accepted the invitation to hold a meeting in Chania, Crete (Greece) in May 2022 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds);

. **Meeting of the Sub-Committee on External Relations:** heard a statement by Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, and took note that, in accordance with Assembly Order 500 (1994), the Sub-Committee would hold a meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States, in November/December 2021 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds);

– **Changes in the composition of Sub-Committees:** approved the following change:

Ms Roelien Kamminga (Netherlands, ALDE) becomes alternate to Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Sub-Committee on External Relations;

• **On Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 2pm, as regards:**

– **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 and took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation;

– **The impact of Brexit on Human Rights on the island of Ireland** (*Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): considered an outline for report and, in addition to the fact-finding visits which had already been authorised to Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) and the Republic of Ireland, including in the border area, authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to London (subject to the availability of funds);

– **Situation in the Middle East:** held an exchange of views following statements by Mr Georgios Katrougalos (Greece, UEL), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, and Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur on “Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?”;

– **Safeguarding peace and stability in the East Mediterranean Sea** (*Rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views;

– **Protecting the pillars of democracy during health crises** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;

– **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL), Rapporteur on “Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan”, to carry out a fact-finding visit to Jordan, in the framework of the preparation of his report (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau and the availability of funds);

- **Other business:** heard a statement by Ms Aigul Kuspan, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, renewing the interest of the Parliament to engage with the Assembly on the basis of the 2004 Co-operation Agreement;
- **Next meetings:**
 - . During the Assembly's 4th part-session, 27 September-1 October 2021
 - . 3- 4 November 2021, Budapest (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds)
 - . 6 December 2021 (place to be confirmed)

S. Sirtori, P. Chevtchenko, 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