



AS/Pol (2021) CB 07  
30 September 2021

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in a hybrid manner from 27 to 30 September 2021

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in a hybrid manner from 27 to 30 September 2021, with Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **On Monday 27 September 2021 at 2pm**, as regards:
  - **The situation in Afghanistan: consequences for Europe and the region:**
    - . held a hearing organised with the contribution of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, with the participation of Ms Mette Knudsen, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); Ambassador Zamir Kabulov, Presidential Envoy to Afghanistan, Russian Federation; Ms Laurel Miller, Programme Director for Asia, International Crisis Group; and Mr Alexander Mundt, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
    - . appointed, by acclamation, Sir Tony Lloyd (United Kingdom, SOC) Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
- **On Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 8.30am**, as regards:
  - **Debate under urgent procedure: The situation in Afghanistan: consequences for Europe and the region** (*Rapporteur: Sir Tony Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
  - **More participatory democracy to tackle climate change** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation;
  - **Call for an inclusive national political process in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on recent developments and his fact-finding visit to meet relevant Belarusian political stakeholders living abroad, in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 September and in Warsaw (Poland) on 2 and 3 September 2021; took note of the motion for a resolution on “Belarus state terrorism as a threat to the whole of Europe” (Doc. 15319) and the current affairs debate on “The situation in Belarus: a threat to the whole of Europe”, held during the June part-session 2021, to be taken into account in the preparation of the report;

– **Appointment of Rapporteurs for report:**

. appointed by acclamation:

- Mr Anastasios Chatzivasileiou (Greece, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on “Establishment of a “youth partner” status with the Parliamentary Assembly”;
- Sir Tony Lloyd (United Kingdom, SOC), Rapporteur on “Relationship between the parliamentary majority and the opposition in a democracy”;
- Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur on “Call for Famagusta’s return to its lawful inhabitants”;
- Ms Dora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on “The need for renewed, effective and inclusive multilateralism”;
- Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Rapporteur on “The challenge of far-right ideology to democracy and human rights in Europe”;

and heard from them a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;

– **Preparation of the Committee meeting on 3 and 4 November 2021 in Budapest:** heard a statement by the Chairperson and took note of the draft programme and practical information;

• **On Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 2pm**, as regards:

– **The situation in Tunisia:** held a hearing with the participation of Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission); Ms Sophie Bessis, Historian and political scientist, specialist in the Maghreb; and Ms Pilar Morales Fernández-Shaw, Coordinator of the Neighbourhood Policy with the Southern Mediterranean, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tunis; considered and unanimously adopted a motion for a resolution on the “Political situation in Tunisia” to be tabled on its behalf; appointed (pending reference of the motion to the Committee) Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE) Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;

– **The Western Balkans between democratic challenges and European aspirations: what role for the Council of Europe?:** held an exchange of views; appointed, following a vote, Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) Rapporteur on “Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans” and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;

• **On Thursday 30 September 2021 at 8.30am**, as regards:

– **Debate under urgent procedure: The situation in Afghanistan: consequences for Europe and the region:** (*Rapporteur: Sir Tony Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC*): took position on 6 amendments and 2 oral sub-amendments to the draft resolution;

– **First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism:** heard a statement by Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), former Rapporteur on “Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism”, on her participation in the Summit on 9 September 2021 in Vienna, Austria;

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

Ms Marina Carobbio Guscetti (Switzerland, SOC) becomes alternate to Ms Marianne Maret (Switzerland, EPP/CD) in the Sub-Committee on External Relations;

– **Other business:**

. heard a statement by Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on External Relations, on a possible meeting of the Sub-Committee in New York (United States of America) on 22-23 November 2021;

. heard a statement by Mr Anuarbek Akhmetou (Republic of Kazakhstan);

– **Next meetings:** agreed to hold its next meetings as follows:

*Plenary Committee*

- . 3-4 November 2021, Budapest
- . 6 December 2021 (place to be confirmed)

*Sub-Committee on External Relations*

- . 22-23 November 2021, United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA

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