



AS/Pol (2021) CB 08  
9 November 2021

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Budapest from 3 to 4 November 2021

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Budapest from 3 to 4 November 2021, with Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **On Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 2.30 pm**, as regards:
  - **Welcome address**: heard the welcome address of Mr László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly;
  - **Democracy: trends, challenges and opportunities**: held a hearing with the participation of Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and expressed appreciation for the Venice Commission's work and Mr Buquicchio's personal contribution;
  - **Fighting corruption: General principles of political responsibility** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): considered and unanimously approved a draft opinion, subject to the approval of the draft report by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on 5 November 2021, and took note of the intention of some members to propose amendments to the preliminary draft resolution in their own name;
  - **Ten years after the Lisbon Treaty: strengthening Council of Europe and European Union co-operation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
  - **Protecting the pillars of democracy during health crises** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): considered a revised outline for report;
  - **Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: What consequences for Europe?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): considered an outline for report;
- **On Thursday 4 November 2021 at 9.30 am**, as regards:
  - **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL*): considered an introductory memorandum;
  - **Exchange of views with the Hungarians authorities**: held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
  - **Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Olivér Várhelyi, European Union Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement (by videoconference), and delegations from the region;
  - **The impact of Brexit on Human Rights on the island of Ireland** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): considered an introductory memorandum;

- **Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as a cornerstone of the European political architecture** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Nick, Germany, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Professor Michele Nicoletti, University of Trento (Italy), Former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Mr Alexey Gromyko, Director, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences; considered a revised outline for report; and took note that the Rapporteur suggested to hold a further hearing (by videoconference) at the next Committee meeting (6 December 2021);
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers:**
  - took note of the reply from the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2181 (2020) “Need for democratic governance of artificial intelligence”
  - in the absence of the Former rapporteur, Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL), postponed the consideration of the reply from the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2199 (2021) “The Assembly's vision on the strategic priorities for the Council of Europe” to its next meeting;
- **Authorisations to carry out fact-finding visits:** authorised:
  - Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur on “Call for Famagusta’s return to its lawful inhabitants” to carry out a fact-finding visit to Cyprus in the framework of the preparation of his report (subject to the availability of funds),
  - Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), Rapporteur on “Political situation in Tunisia”, to carry out a fact-finding visit to Tunisia in the framework of the preparation of his report (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau and the availability of funds);
- **World Forum for Democracy on "Can Democracy Save the Environment?"** (Strasbourg, 8-10 November 2021): appointed Mr George Katrougalos (Greece, UEL) to participate in the Forum;
- **Other business:** was informed by its Chairperson of the letter by the Speakers of the chambers of the parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- **Next meetings:** agreed to hold its next meetings as follows:

*Plenary Committee*

6 December 2021, Office of the Council of Europe in Paris, hybrid mode

P. Chevtchenko, 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