



AS/Pol (2021) CB 09
7 December 2021

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris in a hybrid manner on 6 December 2021

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris in a hybrid manner on 6 December 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, as regards:

- **The impact of Brexit on Human Rights on the island of Ireland** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Alyson Kilpatrick, Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, and Mr Daithí Ó Ceallaigh, Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA), Ireland;
- **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 Mr Gerald Knaus, Chairperson, European Stability Initiative, and Mr Fuat Keyman, Director, Istanbul Policy Center;
- **Geopolitics of the Mediterranean**: held a hearing with the participation of Admiral Pascal Ausseur, Director General, Mediterranean Foundation of Strategic Studies, Toulon (France);
- **Fostering healthy democracies in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marie-Christine Dalloz, France, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Protecting the pillars of democracy during health crises** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views and took note that an introductory memorandum would be sent to members for written comments;
- **Establishment of a “youth partner” status with the Parliamentary Assembly** (*Rapporteur: Mr Anastasios Chatzivasileiou, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views;
- **Call for an inclusive national political process in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views; expressed broad support for the Rapporteur’s proposal to hold a hearing on constitutional reform in Belarus during the January 2022 part-session with the participation of a representative of the Venice Commission, a representative of the Belarusian authorities and a representative of the Belarusian opposition and asked the Rapporteur to explore, with the potential participants, the feasibility of holding such a hearing; furthermore, asked the Rapporteur to explore the feasibility of holding a hearing on an inclusive national political process in Belarus at a later stage, with the participation of representatives of the Belarusian parliament and of the opposition, and to come back to the Committee with a proposal;
- **Establishment of Sub-Committees in 2022**: considered a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat under the instructions of the Chairperson; agreed to the proposal to reconstitute, during the January 2022 part-session, the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World and the Sub-Committee on External Relations and to constitute a new Sub-Committee on Democracy; and invited members to send, via their delegation secretaries, candidacies for all Sub-Committees by the deadline to be set by the Table Office;

- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers:** took note of the reply from the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2199 (2021) on “The Assembly’s vision on the strategic priorities for the Council of Europe”;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), former Rapporteur on “Protecting and supporting the victims of terrorism”, to take part in the international conference “The roles of women and children in terrorism” (Strasbourg, 15-16 December 2021);
- **Meetings in 2022:** agreed to hold its meetings in 2022 as follows:
 - During the January part-session (24-28 January 2022) (hybrid manner)
 - 16 March 2022, place and manner to be decided (tbc)
 - During the April part-session (25-29 April 2022)
 - 19-20 May 2022, Chania, Crete (Greece) (tbc)
 - During the June part-session (20-24 June 2022)
 - 13 September 2022, place and manner to be decided (tbc)
 - During the October part-session (10-14 October 2022)
 - November 2022, date, place and manner to be decided (tbc)
 - 13 December 2022, place and manner to be decided (tbc)

Sonia Sirtori, Pavel Chevtchenko, Ayşegül 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