



AS/PoI (2022) CB 09

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

### Synopsis

#### of the meeting held in Chania, Crete (Greece) on 16-17 May 2022

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Chania, Crete (Greece) on 16-17 May 2022, with first Ms Laima Liucija Andrikiienė (Lithuania, EPP/CD), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson, then Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Democracy, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Welcome address:** heard a welcome address by Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Chairperson of the Greek delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **The need for renewed, effective and inclusive multilateralism** (*Rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, and Mr Evangelos Venizelos, former Vice President of the Government and former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece;
- **Recent challenges to security in Europe: what role for the Council of Europe?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, as amended, and a draft recommendation;
- **Safeguarding peace and stability in the East Mediterranean Sea** (*Rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; held a hearing with the participation of Mr Andreas Nick, Senior Fellow at the Istanbul Policy Center of Sabancı University and Stiftung Mercator; and considered an outline report;
- **Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; held a hearing with the participation of Mr Marc Jorna, Senior Expert, Western Balkans Horizontal policy, European Commission, and Ms Verena Taylor, Director of Programmes, Council of Europe; and considered an outline report;
- **Call for a Fourth Summit of Council of Europe Heads of State and Government:** considered and adopted, as amended, a motion for a recommendation on “A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe”, to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
- **The role of political parties in fostering diversity and inclusion: a new charter for a non-racist society** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Sir Tony Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC*): considered and approved a draft opinion, including one amendment to the draft resolution adopted by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on 12 May 2022;
- **Justice and security for women in peace reconciliation** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Boriana Åberg, Sweden, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft opinion, including five amendments to the draft resolution adopted by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on 26 April 2022;

- **Call for candidates as Rapporteur for report:** called for candidates for the following reports:
  - Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine (Bureau decision of 29 April 2022), and took note of the candidacies of Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) and Mr George Katrougalos (Greece, UEL);
  - The role of the Council of Europe in preventing human suffering resulting from international armed conflicts: different stages of conflict prevention and best practices to be employed, and took note of the candidacies of Ms Lesia Vasylenko (Ukraine, ALDE) and Mr Mehmet Mehdi Eker (Turkey, NR);
- **The situation in Kosovo\*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): decided to request that the Bureau of the Assembly grant an extension of the validity of the reference for a period of one year;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Brussels, in the context of the preparation of his report on "Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans" (subject to the availability of funds);
- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:  
  
During the June part-session (20-24 June 2022), Strasbourg  
13 September 2022, Paris  
During the October part-session (10-14 October 2022), Strasbourg  
November 2022, date and place to be confirmed  
13 December 2022, Paris

Sonia Sirtori, Pavel Chevtchenko, Ayşegül Elveriş, Elia Boggia

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

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\*All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.