



AS/Pol (2022) CB 10
24 June 2022

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 20-23 June 2022

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg on 20-23 June 2022, first with Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, and then with Mr George Katrougalos (Greece, UEL), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 20 June 2022 from 14:00 to 15:00**, as regards:
 - **Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - **Assessing the functioning of the partnership for democracy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): decided to request an extension of the validity of the reference until 30 September 2023;
- **on Tuesday 21 June 2022 from 14:00 to 15:30**, as regards:
 - **Political situation in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held a hearing with the participation of Ms Claire Bazy-Malaurie, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
 - **Recent challenges to security in Europe: what role for the Council of Europe?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): took position on the 3 amendments which had been tabled to the draft Resolution;
 - **Call for an inclusive national political process in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed with his proposal to change the title of the report to *Call for a national political reform process in Belarus*;
 - **Call for candidatures**: called for candidates:
 - for a Rapporteur on *A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe*;
 - for a member in respect of the Committee of the *Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe*;
 - for membership in the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the *World Forum for Democracy* (Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2022);
 - **Replies by the Committee of Ministers**: took note of the replies from the Committee of Ministers to:
 - Recommendation 2200 (2021) on *Urgent need for electoral reform in Belarus*;
 - Recommendation 2208 (2021) on *Transparency and regulation of donations to political parties and electoral campaigns from foreign donors*;

- **on Thursday 23 June 2022 from 14:00 to 15:30**, as regards:
- **Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jacques Maire, France, ALDE*): took position on the 9 amendments which had been tabled to the draft Resolution and decided to table one sub-amendment; heard a statement by Mr Bakyt Tentishev, member of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic; and took note that Mr George Katrougalos, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, would replace the Chairperson of the Committee during the plenary debate;
- **The impact of Brexit on human rights on the island of Ireland** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): considered a preliminary draft report and authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Brussels in the framework of the preparation of his report (subject to the availability of funds);
- **Appointments:**
 - appointed by acclamation:
 - Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), as Rapporteur on *Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*, subject to hearing from him a declaration on any relevant interests;
 - Ms Lesia Vasylenko (Ukraine, ALDE), as Rapporteur on *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 heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - Ms Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE), as Rapporteur on *A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - postponed the appointment of a member of the *Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe* in respect of the Committee and invited members to put forward their candidatures;
 - appointed Mr Mehmet Mehdi Eker (Türkiye, NR), Ms Emine Nur Günay (Türkiye, NR), Mr George Katrougalos (Greece, UEL), and Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) to sit on the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2022);
- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:

12 September (afternoon) and 13 September 2022 (all day), Paris
During the October part-session (10-14 October 2022), Strasbourg
November 2022, meeting to be confirmed
13 December 2022, Paris

The **Sub-Committee on External Relations** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday 23 June 2022 with Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), Chairperson, as regards:

- **Council of Europe external relations and contribution to the international order and global governance, and to SDGs: State of play and perspectives, Stocktaking of Chairmanship of the Executive committee of the North South Centre:** heard a statement by Ambassador Manuel Montobbio, Permanent Representative of Spain, in his dual capacity as Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations of the Committee of Ministers (GR-EXT) and outgoing Chairperson, in respect of Spain, of the Executive Committee of North-South Centre (4 September 2018-17 June 2022), and held an exchange of views;
- **Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America:** heard a statement by its Chairperson, also in his capacity as Rapporteur on the matter, and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Éctor Jaime Ramírez, member of the Observer delegation of Mexico to the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Future work:** considered the possibility of holding a meeting at the UN Headquarters, New York, in Autumn 2022 (in accordance with Assembly Order 500 (1994) and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The **Sub-Committee on Democracy** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday 23 June 2022 with Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Vice-Chairperson:** elected, by acclamation, Ms Ingjerd Schou (Norway, EPP/CD);
- **Digital technologies and democracy:** held an exchange of views with Professor Jeremy Pitt, Artificial Intelligence, Self-Organising Systems, Imperial College London, and Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance of the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Ágnes Kertész, 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