



AS/Pol (2022) CB 11  
15 September 2022

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 12-13 September 2022

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 12-13 September 2022, with Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 12 September 2022 from 14:30 to 18:00**, as regards:
  - ***A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; held a hearing with the participation of Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly and Chairperson of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe; and considered an outline report;
  - ***Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as a cornerstone of the European political architecture*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Laima Liucija Andrikiénė, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report and held a hearing with the online participation of Professor Dainius Žalimas, Dean at the Faculty of Law, Vytautas Magnus University, member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and former President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania;
  - ***Call for a national political reform process in Belarus*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
  - ***Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): heard a declaration on the absence of any conflict of interest by the Rapporteur and, following a statement by him, held an exchange of views;
  - ***The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)***: unanimously adopted a motion for a resolution to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
- **on Tuesday 13 September 2022 from 09:00 to 12:30 and from 14:00 to 17:30**, as regards:
  - ***Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans*** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Miroslav Lajčák, EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues; considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
  - ***The impact of Brexit on human rights on the island of Ireland*** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
  - ***The situation in Afghanistan: consequences for Europe and the region*** (*former Rapporteur: Sir Tony Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC*): heard a statement by the former Rapporteur as a follow-up to Resolution 2403 (2021) and held an exchange of views;

- **International Day of Democracy:** considered and unanimously adopted a declaration on behalf of the Committee;
- **More participatory democracy to tackle climate change** (former Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC): heard a statement by the former Rapporteur on the reply to Assembly Recommendation 2212 (2021) by the Committee of Ministers and took note of the latter;
- **The Assembly's procedures and working methods during sessions and meetings held in physical presence of members: lessons learned from operating in hybrid format:** agreed with its Chairperson's proposals and instructed him to reply accordingly to the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs;
- **Protecting the pillars of democracy during health crises** (Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Challenges to peace-making in Syria and Libya:** heard a statement by Mr George Katrougalos, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World, and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Bernardo Mariani, Consultant, Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform;
- **Appointments:** appointed:
  - Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC) to participate in the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe in respect of the Committee;
  - in addition to those already appointed during the June 2022 part-session, Lord Andrew Adonis (United Kingdom, SOC), Ms Sabrina De Carlo (Italy, SOC), Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro (Spain, EPP/CD), Ms Isabel Meirelles (Portugal, EPP/CD), Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Mr Alberto Ribolla (Italy, EC/DA), Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), Mr Krzysztof Truskolaski (Poland, EPP/CD) and Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD), to sit on the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2022);
- **Other business:** agreed with its Chairperson's proposal to table a motion for a resolution, on behalf of the Committee, on the European Political Community (EPC);
- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:

During the October part-session (10-14 October 2022), Strasbourg  
November 2022, meeting to be confirmed  
13 December 2022, Paris

Sonia Sirtori, Ágnes Kertész, Pavel Chevtchenko, 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