



AS/Pol (2022) CB 12rev
14 October 2022

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 10-13 October 2022

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg on 10-13 October 2022, with first Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, and then Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC), First Vice-President, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 10 October 2022 from 14:00 to 15:00**, as regards:
 - ***A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE*): considered and declassified an introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views;
 - ***External Relations***: heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), and took note that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee would be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 28 to 30 November 2022 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - ***Call for candidatures as rapporteur***: called for candidates for reports on:
 - The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 - The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms
- **on Tuesday 11 October 2022 from 8:30 to 10:00**, as regards:
 - ***Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans*** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): took position on one amendment to the draft recommendation and decided to submit an oral amendment;
 - ***Protecting the pillars of democracy during health crises*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - ***Call for Famagusta's return to its lawful inhabitants*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Cyprus and held an exchange of views;
- **on Tuesday 11 October 2022 from 14:00 to 15:30**, as regards:
 - ***Urgent debate: Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): was informed that the Rapporteur could not attend the meeting and had delegated Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD) to present the report on his behalf; decided to change the title of the report to "Further escalation in the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine"; held an exchange of views; decided, following a vote, not to consider amendments in the absence of the Rapporteur; considered the draft report; and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;

- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, following which it heard a statement by Mr Abdel Haleem Alhumood, member of the Jordanian partner for democracy delegation;
- **Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
- **on Wednesday 12 October 2022 from 14:00 to 15:30**, as regards:
 - **Activities of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**: held a hearing with the participation of Ms Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights;
 - **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 draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Replies by the Committee of Ministers**: took note of the replies to:
 - [Recommendation 2232 \(2022\)](#) “Safeguarding and promoting genuine democracy in Europe”
 - [Recommendation 2228 \(2022\)](#) “Consequences of the Russian Federation’s continued aggression against Ukraine: role and response of the Council of Europe”;
- **on Thursday 13 October 2022 from 14:00 to 15:30**, as regards:
 - **Urgent debate: Further escalation in the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): took position on 14 amendments to the draft resolution, and decided to table three sub-amendments and to present two oral amendments;
 - **The impact of Brexit on human rights on the island of Ireland** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): took position on two amendments to the draft resolution, and decided to table two written sub-amendments;
 - **The European Political Community (EPC)**: unanimously adopted a motion for a resolution to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
 - **Appointments of rapporteurs**: appointed by acclamation:
 - Mr George Katrougalos (Greece, UEL), as Rapporteur on “The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)”, and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - Postponed the appointment of the Rapporteur on “The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms” to its next meeting;
 - **Authorisations by the Committee**: authorised:
 - Ms Fiona O’Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE), in her capacity as Rapporteur on “A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe”, to participate in the debate on “The future of the Council of Europe”, Congress session, 25 October 2022, and in the meeting of the GT-SOM4 - Ad hoc Working Party to reflect on the organisational and other arrangements for a possible 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe on 21 October 2022 in Strasbourg;
 - Mr Anastasios Chatzivasileiou (Greece, EPP/CD) to participate in the Conference organised by the German PACE delegation: “Democracy and human rights in times of crisis – the contribution of young people in Europe”, 30 November – 2 December 2022, Berlin (*at no cost for the Assembly*);

- Ms Dora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), in her capacity as Rapporteur on “The situation in Kosovo”, to carry out fact-finding visits to Brussels (at no cost for the Assembly), to Belgrade and to Kosovo* (the latter subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories, in the context of the preparation of his report “Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?” (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- **Changes in the membership of Sub-Committees:** took note of the following changes in the membership of Sub-Committees:

Sub-Committee on External Relations

- Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC) member, Ms Isabel Meirelles (EPP/CD) alternate
- Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) member
- Ms Fiona O’Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) member
- Ms Marijana Balić (Croatia, EPP/CD) member

Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World

- Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC) member

- **Other business:** heard a statement by Ms Dinara Ashimova, Chairperson of the Kyrgyz partner for democracy delegation;

- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:

- 28-30 November 2022 Sub-Committee on External Relations, UN Headquarters, New York, USA (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau)
- 13 December 2022, Paris
- During the January part-session (23-27 January 2023), Strasbourg
- Monday 20 March 2023, Paris
- During the April part-session (24-28 April 2023), Strasbourg
- 17 May 2023, Paris
- During the June part-session (19-23 June 2023), Strasbourg
- 12 and 13 September 2023 (place to be confirmed)
- During the October part-session (9-13 October 2023), Strasbourg
- Tuesday 12 December 2023, Paris.

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director 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

* 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.