



SECRETARIAT

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15 December 2022

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 13 December 2022

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

- **A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE*): considered a draft report; agreed with the Rapporteur's proposal to change the title of the report to "The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges" and unanimously adopted a draft recommendation as amended;
- **The situation of political prisoners in Belarus**: held a hearing with the participation of Ms Tatsiana Khomich, human rights activist, sister of Ms Maria Kalesnikava, laureate of the 2021 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, in the context of the preparation of the report "Call for a national political reform process in Belarus" (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*);
- **Relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union**: held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Loránt Vincze (Romania, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament and Rapporteur on Relations between the European Union and the Council of Europe for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs;
- **Establishment of a "youth partner" status with the Parliamentary Assembly** (*Rapporteur: Mr Anastasios Chatzivasileiou, Greece, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Spyros Papadatos, Chairperson of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) of the Council of Europe, and Mr Roger Padreny, Member of parliament of Andorra, Member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly network of young parliamentarians; heard a report back by the Rapporteur on his participation in the Conference on "Democracy and human rights in times of crisis – the contribution of young people in Europe", held on 30 November – 2 December 2022 in Berlin; considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to declassify it;
- **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** (*Rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to the OECD Headquarters (Paris) in the beginning of 2023;
- **Work programme**: held an exchange of views; discussed priorities for 2023; and accepted an invitation from Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), Chairperson of the Spanish delegation to the Assembly, to hold a meeting in Seville (Spain) on 11-12 May 2023 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);

- **Call for candidates for Rapporteurs:** called for candidates for the following reports:
 - *Interconnections between the Council of Europe and the European Political Community*
 - *Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*
 - *Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe*
- **Appointment of a Rapporteur for report:** appointed by acclamation Mr Alexander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on “The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms” and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Requests for extensions of references:** decided to request that the Bureau of the Assembly grant an extension of the validity of the references for a period of one year for the following reports: “Call for a national political reform process in Belarus” (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*), “Relationship between the parliamentary majority and the opposition in a democracy” (*Rapporteur: Sir Tony Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC*), and “Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?” (*Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*);
- **Other business:** agreed to hold a hearing on the situation in Iran during the January 2023 part-session, either in the Committee or in the context of a meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World;
- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:
 - January part-session (23-27 January 2023), Strasbourg
 - 20 March 2023, Paris
 - April part-session (24-28 April 2023), Strasbourg
 - 11-12 May 2023, Seville (Spain), subject to the authorisation of the Bureau
 - June part-session (19-23 June 2023), Strasbourg
 - 13 September 2023, Paris
 - October part-session (9-13 October 2023), Strasbourg
 - 12 December 2023, Paris

Sonia Sirtori, Ágnes Kertész, Pavel Chevtchenko, Ayşegül Elveriş

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