



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

AS/Per (2018) PV 03

5 December 2018

Standing Committee

Minutes

**of the meeting held in Helsinki
on 23 November 2018**

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting opened at 9 am with **Ms Maury Pasquier**, President of the Assembly, in the chair.

Several events had taken place since the fourth part-session. The conference on “Building democratic security in the Mediterranean”, held by the Croatian Chairmanship, had been a chance to highlight the added value of “partner for democracy” status and exchange views on its revitalisation. The concert on the theme of European peace held by the French authorities as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918 had provided an opportunity to show support for the forthcoming French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. The World Forum for Democracy, focusing on the question “Gender Equality: Whose Battle?”, had highlighted the continuing disparities between women and men.

At the last part-session the Assembly had referred the report on “Strengthening the decision-making process of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning credentials and voting” back to the committee. At its next meeting, on 10 December 2018, the Committee on Rules of Procedure, which was still responsible for the report, would decide what steps to take. The Bureau of the Assembly had also asked the Rules Committee to review the list of the Assembly members’ rights which could be suspended or withdrawn when a national delegation’s credentials were challenged.

The Organisation’s two statutory bodies had expressed interest in more regular exchanges, both within the Joint Committee and during meetings between the Deputies’ Bureau and the Presidential Committee, whose next meeting was to be held in Paris on 13 December.

25 November was the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Violence against women was the most serious consequence of the persistent inequalities between women and men. It was very alarming that the world of politics had not been spared this, as highlighted by the joint study by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Assembly on “Sexism, harassment and violence against women in European parliaments”. The study had been forwarded to all the parliaments of the Council of Europe member states with an invitation to act on its recommendations. However, the first goal should be to achieve cultural change, which depended on each person taking individual responsibility, as promoted by the #NotInMyParliament Campaign. This initiative could be extended to all walks of life, with the slogan altered accordingly to #NotInMyTown, #NotInMyTeam, or #NotInMyUniversity.

In response to **Sir Roger Gale’s** comment on the invitation to the Rules Committee to review the list of sanctions, the President pointed out that this was the Bureau’s decision and it did not require the approval of the Standing Committee.

2. WELCOME ADDRESS BY MS PAULA RISIKKO, SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF FINLAND

The President welcomed Ms Risikko and expressed her satisfaction at the priorities set by the Finnish Chairmanship, particularly those of strengthening the system of human rights and the rule of law in Europe, promoting equality and women’s rights and focusing on openness and inclusiveness. The elimination of violence against women and gender equality were areas in which the Assembly was active. So as to rally as many people as possible around these goals, a #NotInMyParliament Campaign had been launched. The Finnish Parliament’s commitment to eradicating sexual harassment, revealed by a recent study, was to be welcomed.

Ms Risikko welcomed the Finnish Chairmanship’s programme of priorities, entitled “The Essence of Europe — Advancing Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law for All”. The Parliamentary Assembly had a key role as a forum for parliamentary dialogue, a creator of standards and an independent monitoring body. The Finnish Parliament set much store by its work, on which it held an annual debate. Western societies today were destabilised and polarised, and this called for greater unity and an ability to pinpoint and tackle new challenges. The political, institutional and economic challenges which the Council of Europe currently faced were a source of concern and had to be overcome to enable the Organisation to continue its main activities.

One of the Chairmanship’s priorities – gender equality and women’s rights – raised awareness of the need to adopt a zero tolerance approach to violence against women. A study by the Finnish Parliament on this subject had highlighted the need for a code of conduct to prevent and counter violence, and for regular monitoring. The #NotInMyParliament Campaign would emphasise the importance of equality and mutual respect.

3. VERIFICATION OF NEW CREDENTIALS

Doc. 14667

The Standing Committee **ratified** the credentials of new members and substitutes, as set out in Doc. 14667.

4. CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

Commissions (2018) 08

The Standing Committee **ratified** the changes in the composition of Assembly committees, as set out in the document Commissions (2018) 08.

5. AGENDA

AS/Per (2018) OJ 03rev

The revised draft agenda was **adopted**.

6. FIRST PART-SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (21-25 JANUARY 2019)

AS/Bur (2018) 45rev

Pursuant to Rule 27.4 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, the Standing Committee **took note** of the draft agenda of the first part-session of 2019.

7. REFERENCE TO COMMITTEES

AS/Bur (2018) 43

The Standing Committee **ratified** the references and transmissions to committees, as set out in Appendix I.

8. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MS ANNA RURKA, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE OF INGOS, COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Ms Rurka said that the Council of Europe's statutory aims served as the basis for the joint work of the Conference of INGOs. The Conference was made up of 301 international non-governmental organisations to which the Secretary General of the Council of Europe had granted participatory status. Every three years the Conference elected its Bureau, its President, and its Vice-Presidents and appointed its three thematic committees. In 2008, it had also set up an Expert Council on NGO Law. The Conference met twice a year on the sidelines of the Assembly sessions, although in the current year it had been decided to hold one of its sessions at the same time as the plenary of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. The Conference organised fact-finding missions to member states and worked closely with the Assembly's subordinate bodies. This co-operation should be kept up and intensified. For this purpose, it was proposed that the persons occupying elected posts within the Conference should be able to attend committee meetings. In addition, a distinction should be made between individual NGOs and those with participatory status. Assembly members were called on to promote civil society participation in the decision-making processes in their own countries, including the use of new technologies.

In the current context, civil society had the feeling that it was no longer protected by the national authorities. Accordingly, the Conference welcomed Assembly Recommendation 2134 (2018) on "New restrictions on NGO activities in Council of Europe member States, particularly the call to implement Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe" and to continue to take stock of progress made to this end, to continue its thematic debates on the role and functioning of NGOs in the Council of Europe and to establish a mechanism aimed at receiving, analysing and reacting to alerts on possible new restrictions on the right to freedom of association in Council of Europe member States. With regard to the last point, it was hoped that there would be some positive follow-up from the Committee of Ministers.

Ms Schou asked what progress had been made on the case of Kateryna Handzyuk, a Ukrainian civil society activist, who had died as a result of an acid attack, and said she was concerned about intimidation of activists in other countries. What action was the Conference of INGOs taking in this respect?

Mr Kox asked for more information about the Conference's fact-finding missions and referred to NGOs which did not represent citizens, but specific interests.

Mr Arieu said that a parliamentary committee of inquiry had looked into the Kateryna Handzyuk case with a view to identifying all the persons involved, including the person who ordered the attack. After decentralisation, corruption had moved from central government to regional level, where activists were still subject to intimidation. He asked for more information on the subject of the Hungarian law on NGOs.

Mr Schwabe gave information on the new mechanism in the German Bundestag whose aim was to protect human rights defenders, and found it regrettable that some states misused international co-operation mechanisms such as the Schengen Agreements or Interpol's red notices to target civil society activists.

Ms Rurka warned against the spread of ideas concerning NGOs based on myths or relating to exceptional cases. For example, when the Venice Commission was drawing up its opinion on the Hungary's draft legislation on NGOs funded from abroad, the Hungarian government had claimed that there was a risk of NGOs taking part in terrorist or money-laundering activities. However, it had not been able to provide any evidence for these allegations. A fact-finding mission to the United Kingdom had revealed that a legislative amendment had been proposed to deal with a single case. Participatory status had been set up by CM/Res(2016)3 of the Committee of Ministers and acted as a guarantee of reliability. All applications for this status were examined to see if the NGO's activities were compatible with the Council of Europe's goals.

The aim of the Conference's fact-finding missions was to anticipate problems before they arose. The Conference had been able to identify moves towards authoritarianism and the restriction of NGO activities in Romania and Poland well before the European institutions had reacted. In Ukraine draft legislative measures targeting anti-corruption activists had been toned down as a result of representations by the Conference, which had drawn the international community to the problem. Alarming legislative proposals were also emerging in Armenia and Georgia. The Conference and the Parliamentary Assembly should make use of joint communiqués to highlight negative trends.

The use of international co-operation tools to restrict activists' activities such as Poland's refusal to issue Lyudmila Kozłowska a Schengen visa, was an alarming development. Similar problems were posed by deterrent provisions such as the "offence of solidarity".

The mechanism set up by the Bundestag was to be applauded and should be used as a model by other national parliaments.

9. ELECTION OBSERVATION

Observation of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (7 October 2018)

AS/Bur/BiH (2018) 2

Chair of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau

Dame Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, CE)

The Chair of the Ad hoc Committee highlighted the irregularities which the committee had identified with regard to the legislative and constitutional framework, the conduct of the campaign and the organisation of the vote. In particular, legislative and constitutional provisions had still not been amended in the light of the *Sejdic and Finci* judgment to remove discriminatory requirements based on persons' ethnic backgrounds and places of residence. Although the election campaign had been calm, hate speech and nationalist rhetoric had been reported. The media were considered to be under pressure from political parties and private interests. A lack of transparency about media owners and threats to journalists had been reported by some interviewees. There was not enough transparency about party political funding.

On the day of the vote, some polling stations had been overcrowded because they were too small and because of the time needed to fill in several ballot papers. Observers had noted an increased presence of observers from political parties in polling stations. Moreover they had all had voter lists and noted down who had voted, and in the committee's view, this raised problems in terms of personal data protection and could bring pressure to bear on voters. The secrecy of the vote had been infringed in 18% of the polling stations observed, although no specific abuses had been reported. Cases of assisted voting had been noted, particularly involving women. The legislative framework and electoral practices should be improved, with the support of the assistance programme and in accordance with the Venice Commission's recommendations, so as to build trust in the democratic election process.

10. EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Protecting and promoting sign languages in Europe

Doc. 14660

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:
Ms Miren Edurne Gorrotxategui (Spain, UEL)*

The rapporteur pointed out that sign languages were the mother tongues for most deaf and hard of hearing persons and helped them to develop their own culture, separate from the language of the geographical area in which they lived and thus placing them in the category of a cultural minority. Judged on their capacity to express themselves orally, deaf and hard of hearing persons were often victims of discrimination. International institutions, particularly the United Nations, the European Union and the Assembly, were working to counter this negative image. Recognising sign languages as official languages would help to understand the needs of deaf and hard of hearing persons and their culture better and to master these languages better, with the help of technologies, and communication among users and between users and non-users. To date, few states had recognised sign languages as official languages. Although the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages did not exclude sign languages, it did not refer to them specifically and this meant that its Committee of Experts could not monitor their progress, although some states, such as Finland, provided information on a voluntary basis. There was a need to support the training and recruitment of sign language interpreters, who would accompany deaf persons, to produce and broadcast cultural and television programmes with sign language interpretation and to provide for sign language teaching outside the community in which it was used. The Committee of Experts should also receive, on a voluntary basis, information on the use and protection of sign languages.

Mr Kox considered that promoting sign languages and measures to foster training and communication in sign languages should be the shared aim of all the Assembly members.

Mr Schwabe wished to give persons with disabilities the means of taking part in the life of the community. During debates he had organised involving the German Foreign Minister during the election campaign, sign language interpretation had been provided. However, the aim should not just be one-off measures; efforts to foster integration should continue over the long term.

Mr Seyidov said that the best way of actually implementing the proposals contained in the draft resolution would be to incorporate them into a convention, which could be drafted under Council of Europe auspices.

Ms Kyriakides pointed out that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities promoted inclusion, which could only be guaranteed through the recognition of sign languages as official languages. The use of sign languages by the media would contribute to the effective implementation of the right to information.

Ms Guzenina pointed out that in Finland, parliamentary debates were interpreted into sign language so that the decision-making process could be as inclusive as possible.

Ms Leyte said that Spain had done outstanding work on the inclusion of deaf and hard of hearing persons but there was a long way to go before full inclusion would be achieved, particularly access for all people with disabilities to employment.

Mr Kiliç talked of sport as a means of promoting the integration of deaf and hard of hearing persons. In 2017, the Turkish city of Samsun had hosted the Deaflympics, which had brought together over 300 athletes from 90 countries. The Council of Europe could become the partner for the next Deaflympics, which were due to be held in 2021.

Mr Ariev referred to a Ukrainian initiative to raise awareness, which was to invite people who did not use sign language to learn a few signs, thus contributing to the improved integration of deaf and hard of hearing people in local communities.

Ms Brynjólfssdóttir was glad that in 2011 Iceland had recognised sign language as an official language. However, continuing action in this field could only be envisaged if there was a true political desire for progress.

Mr Schennach said that Austria now recognised sign language as an official language and drew inspiration from the initiatives set up by Finland, including the interpretation of parliamentary debates into sign language. University curricula now included training in sign language interpretation. It was necessary to put measures in place which would give deaf and hard of hearing children access to TV and audio programmes. A football league for the deaf had been set up in Austria, with the financial support of the government. It was also important to provide for university courses that were accessible to sign language users.

Ms Mikko welcomed Finland's initiatives and regretted that, in her country, Estonia, sign language was not an official language. At the beginning of her career, a prize had been awarded to her by an association for her work on broadcasting for persons with disabilities.

The rapporteur pointed out that the aim of the report was to combat the ignorance and negative perceptions from which the deaf and hard of hearing community suffered. The media were invited to take part in awareness-raising by broadcasting programmes and debates to sign-language users to enable them to contribute to topical issues.

The Chair of the committee regretted that the failure to recognise sign languages as official languages did not allow interpretation in a public service context and teaching in sign languages. The interpretation into the international, Finnish and Spanish sign languages set up during the debate on this report had helped to disseminate the message widely. The draft recommendation called for the appointment of a working group on the status of sign languages with a view to the possible drafting of standards for the protection of sign languages.

The Standing Committee **unanimously adopted** the draft resolution [Resolution 2247(2018)] and the draft recommendation [Recommendation 2143 (2018)].

11. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MR TINO SOINI, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND, CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CM/Inf (2018) 29

CM/Inf (2018) 30

The Minister said that the Finnish Presidency would place most emphasis on the Council of Europe's main mandate. The system of the European Convention on Human Rights had to be protected and championed. Accession to the Convention was a prerequisite for Council of Europe membership. The Organisation was a major multilateral co-operation platform, which enabled the preparation of a large variety of standards, particularly in the areas of preventing torture, protecting national minorities, combating violence against women and others, and provided help with their implementation.

The Council of Europe currently faced political, economic and institutional problems, which Finland would have to tackle during its Presidency. Firstly, states would have to be reminded of their commitment to meet their financial obligations towards the Organisation. Settling the problem of non-payment required an effort from everyone, both from the states and from the two statutory bodies. Secondly, a reform of the Council of Europe would be carried out in spring 2019 in order to refocus its activities. Although budget cuts were inevitable, the operational capacity of the central institutions, namely the Court and the Human Rights Commissioner, would have to be preserved. Thirdly, the Finnish Presidency would have to ensure that it was possible for the procedure for the election of the next Secretary General to be conducted properly.

In consultation with the ministers concerned and with civil society, the Finnish Presidency had drawn up a list of three priority activities, the most crucial of which was to strengthen the system of human rights and the rule of law in Europe. Key sectors, such as the Court, the treaties and the Human Rights Commissioner should be supported. In addition, emerging issues such as artificial intelligence would be addressed. It should be possible to promote respect for human rights in the sphere of new technologies. A high-level conference on artificial intelligence and human rights would be held in Helsinki on 26 and 27 February 2019. Conferences would also be held in Strasbourg in November 2018, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Single Court of the European Court of Human Rights, and in Tampere in February 2019, on protecting common European standards on the rule of law. The second priority was to support equality and women's rights. The Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence was one of the Council of Europe's most remarkable achievements. The third priority was to promote openness and inclusion and a focus on young people and preventing radicalisation. The role of human rights defenders should also be recognised and they themselves had to be protected. Events on this theme would be held in Strasbourg in November and in Helsinki in December with the Human Rights Commissioner in attendance.

Furthermore, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Commissioner, a celebration would be held during the January 2019 part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Finnish Presidency would end in May 2019 with a ministerial meeting, which would enable foreign ministers to address topical issues such as, for example, the reform of the Council of Europe.

In reply to **Mr Arieu's** question about the steps that the Finnish Presidency would be taking to deal with the attitude of the Russian Federation, including its military aggression against Ukraine and its financial blackmail of the Organisation, **the Minister** said that dialogue was the best way to settle the current crisis. However, this dialogue did have to involve all states whose aim it was to promote the smooth functioning of the Organisation.

To **Ms Ævarsdóttir's** question as to whether the possibility of increasing the member states' contributions to offset Russia's non-payment had been considered, **the Minister** pointed out that the first possibility to explore was based on compliance by states with their initial financial commitments. No negotiations on increased contributions by the member states had begun. This was still an unlikely scenario in view of the current state of national budgets. Reductions in activities at the Council of Europe were being planned, taking the form of both budget cuts and a refocusing of activities.

The Minister most certainly agreed with **Sir Roger Gale**, who stressed the need to secure respect by all member states for human rights and the rule of law. This depended in particular on respect for judicial decisions, including those that were unfavourable to the states concerned. Respect should also be shown for the outcome of elections and the state institutions set up to provide equal protection for ruling parties and the opposition.

Mr Kox expressed the view that withdrawing the ban on the right to elect certain personalities from the Assembly's list of sanctions would remove the obstacle to the return of the Russian delegation to the Assembly. However, to be sure of this, communications between the Assembly and the Russian delegation would have to be improved. Could the Finnish Presidency help to establish a communication channel? **The Minister** emphasised the need to find alternative approaches so that the current situation could be resolved positively before the end of the Presidency. Any other result would be a failure. All alternative proposals would be welcome.

In response to a comment on the need to promote sign languages in Europe by **Ms Gorrotxategui**, the **Minister** expressed his support for this initiative and regretted that only some countries recognised sign language as an official language. This lack of recognition hindered the exercise of certain rights including the right to education.

In reply to **Ms Schou**, who asked about the tangible measures that the Finnish Presidency would take to exit the crisis caused by the situation with the Russian Federation, **the Minister** repeated that the solution, which had not yet been identified, could be arrived at through dialogue and the involvement of all member states. He had already talked to the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Mr Klimkin, and he also hoped to be able to discuss the matter with the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr Lavrov.

Mr Schwabe referred to the Russian Federation's budgetary contribution, which amounted to €30 million, and also asked how the Finnish Presidency planned to deal with the non-implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights by certain member states, particularly Turkey. In the **Minister's** view the question of contributions and the question of reform of the Organisation to foster greater efficiency had to be dealt with together. Without trust in the system of the Court of Human Rights the international rule-based system would collapse. The human rights system served citizens, not governments.

In reply to **Ms Mikko's** enquiry as to whether the time of the discussion with Mr Lavrov could already be anticipated, **the Minister** said that the meeting could only take place once a number of substantive proposals had been brought together and his staff were already working on this.

Mr Nick welcomed the pragmatic approach to resolving the crisis which the Finnish Presidency seemed to favour. A conflict between institutions should be avoided. In 2018, Germany decided to increase its voluntary contributions temporarily to support certain activities during a budget crisis. However, it would be difficult to provide for a substantial long-term increase. A long-term solution with sustainable financing was preferable. However, it would be difficult to envisage an increase in contributions to cover the cost of severance pay. **The Minister** fully supported the efforts of the parties concerned to establish dialogue between the institutions.

Ms Brynjólfsdóttir asked what action the Finnish Presidency would be taking to combat populism and hate speech. **The Minister** regretted that communications in the world of politics, transformed in part by social networks, was currently based on provocation, tough talking and a lack of true dialogue. The aim of some new parties was to destroy the existing system, and this was a real challenge for Europe.

12. ELECTION OF JUDGES TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Procedure for the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights

Doc. 14662

Rapporteur of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:
Mr Boriss Cilevičs

The rapporteur said that improvements to the current framework for the election of judges – the establishment of a plenary committee, longer interviews with candidates, the appointment of an Advisory Panel – had been implemented progressively. Furthermore, all lists of candidates now had to include at least one person of the opposite sex. These changes, which were contained in various texts, would have to be compiled so as to help make the procedure clearer.

Recently, other proposals for amendments had been made but it had not been deemed necessary to follow them, as the changes referred to above had already helped to improve the efficiency of the procedure. These proposals included opening up the interviews with the candidates to the public, changing the composition of the plenary committee or changing the system for election by the Assembly. The reasons why these proposals had been rejected were set out in the appendix to the report.

However, some of the proposals described in detail in the report had been considered useful. In particular, it was proposed that a list of candidates should be rejected if the candidates did not meet the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights and the resolutions of the Assembly, if the national selection procedure did not meet the minimum requirements of fairness and transparency or the Advisory Panel had not been duly consulted. The proposal to reject a list on the aforementioned grounds would have to be supported by a simple majority, not by a qualified majority, as was currently the case. Furthermore, members of the committee on the election of judges who came from the same country as the list under examination were prohibited from voting in the committee or on any proposal to reject their country's list or on the preferences to be expressed among the candidates on the list.

Lastly, political groups were invited to shoulder their share of responsibility by ensuring that the members they appointed to the committee would take an active part in its work.

Mr Pocij emphasised how important it was for the Assembly to elect judges to the Court. Safeguards were necessary to ensure that the selection resulted in a list of candidates with the required qualifications and to counter attempts by governments to force the Assembly to elect a particular candidate by putting him or her up against weaker candidates.

Ms Ævarsdóttir raised the question of how to encourage member states to favour qualified women candidates. Currently, the candidates declared to be "the most qualified" by the committee were mainly men.

Mr Kiliç wondered whether there should not be a limit on the number of committee members forming part of the same national delegation to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Mr Kox said that, as Chair of the Group of the Unified European Left, he would ensure that members appointed to the committee would take part in its activities regularly, as the election of judges was one of the Assembly's main tasks.

Following **Mr Pocij's** assertion that the quality of the best candidate should be determined according to qualifications and should not involve considerations of gender, **Ms Ævarsdóttir** referred to the imbalance between the sexes in the composition of the Court and insisted on the need to find ways of encouraging governments to find qualified women candidates.

The rapporteur pointed out that the process of electing judges took place at several levels and this included a national level, in which government could circumvent the rules by placing their favourite candidate on the list alongside candidates with lower levels of qualification. However, countries with small populations could not always propose three candidates with identical qualifications. Consequently, every situation had to be considered separately. The Committee on the Election of Judges paid a great deal of attention to the issue

of gender balance. The Chair of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination was automatically a member. At present, nearly 40% of the judges in the Court were women and a rule on the under-represented sex made it possible for the balance to be preserved. A political message from Assembly members encouraging their respective governments to propose women candidates was preferable to a regulatory measure, which moreover could encroach on an area in which the Assembly did not have jurisdiction to act.

The Standing Committee **unanimously adopted** the draft resolution [Resolution 2248 (2018)].

13. SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The provision of palliative care in Europe

Doc. 14657

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:
Mr Rónán Mullen (Ireland, EPP/CD)*

The rapporteur said that the report saw palliative care as a human right and called for it to be incorporated into national health systems. Palliative care was not just to do with managing pain. It also related to the psychological, emotional and spiritual needs of the terminally ill and to chronic illnesses. The report was the follow-up to Recommendation Rec (2003)24 of the Committee of Ministers on the organisation of palliative care, Resolution 1649 (2009) on “Palliative care: a model for innovative health and social policies” and the work of the European Association for Palliative Care. There had been considerable progress in the management of care, although this had not been the case in all countries. For example, while there had been progress in Armenia and Ukraine, these countries were still lagging behind where it came to managing pain. The aim of the report was to change perceptions about treatment using opioids, which were currently distorted by a lack of facts or wrong information. Terminally ill patients preferred to die at home and community-based palliative care was often less costly. The report paid tribute to the private sector’s role in the provision of palliative care, which often, as in Spain, enabled a whole range of treatments to be incorporated into the healthcare system.

Ms Ævarsdóttir welcomed the report, particularly the tribute paid in the draft resolution to informal caregivers, and asked whether the reference, in paragraph 7.4.2., to men and women, and their particular situation and needs, called for gender equality to be established in this sphere.

Mr Maniero supported the report and wondered whether the invitation to raise awareness among health professionals and the wider public about opioid-based treatments was not worded somewhat narrowly, as other substances existed, which were capable of alleviating pain in specific circumstances.

Ms Kyriakides welcomed the report, saying that it addressed a sensitive subject in a balanced manner, and fully supported the proposal to incorporate palliative care into the health system. Such care, which used to be reserved for end-of-life patients, now made it possible to provide relief for a much broader circle of patients and their family members. The Assembly was invited to examine the question of palliative care for children in more detail.

The rapporteur explained that the aim of paragraph 7.4.2. was to eliminate direct or indirect barriers that prevented family members who were best placed to act as informal caregivers in view of the particular needs of the family concerned from doing so. It was not currently the idea of the paragraph to introduce a balance between the sexes, although women often provided most of the care concerned. The draft resolution talked of opioid-based treatments taking account of information provided by the Access To Opioid Medication in Europe (ATOME) project. It was true that other processes had proved effective. It was proposed therefore to amend paragraph 7.3.2., adding the words “appropriate and effective pain management processes, including” after “raising awareness of”.

This oral amendment was **adopted**.

The Standing Committee **unanimously adopted** the draft resolution [Resolution 2249 (2018)].

14. MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Encouraging the movement of international students across Europe

Doc. 14509
+Addendum

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:
Alexander [The Earl of] Dundee (United Kingdom, EC)*

Mr Liddell-Grainger, who presented the report in the absence of the rapporteur, pointed out that the aim of the draft text was to promote mobility among students in the 47 member states. Mobility was a driving force for diversity and knowledge of other cultures, fostering innovation and creativity. For host countries, foreign students could be a major source of revenue. The report showed that as things stood, movements by students were not distinguished from any other type of movement. Abandoning this blanket treatment, which had a negative effect on the perception of foreign students, would enable national economies to take full advantage of international mobility. Furthermore, categorising foreign students as “migrants” resulted in an increase in immigration figures.

The Chair pointed out that the two amendments proposed by the addendum to the report had been approved unanimously by the committee to which the report had been referred. Consequently, under Rule 34.11 of the Rules of Procedure and in the absence of any objection by any members of the committee, they were declared to have been adopted.

The Standing Committee **unanimously adopted** the draft resolution [Resolution 2250(2018)].

15. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

16. NEXT MEETING

The Standing Committee decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on Friday 1 March 2019.

The meeting **rose** at 3.30 p.m.

APPENDIX I

Decisions on documents tabled for references to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **The use of innovative technologies for the benefit of migrants**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Doris Fiala and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 14594](#)

Transmission to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for information*

2. **Unaccompanied and separated migrant children: the need for effective guardianship**
Motion for a recommendation tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
[Doc. 14637](#)

Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*

3. **Urgent need to strengthen Financial Intelligence Units – Sharper tools needed to improve confiscation of illegal assets**
Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
[Doc. 14638](#)

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

4. **Fighting corruption – General principles of political responsibility**
Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
[Doc. 14639](#)

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion*

5. **Following up on the Genocide Convention and developing processes for reflecting on historic genocides in Council of Europe member States**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Kerstin Lundgren and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 14640](#)

No further action

6. **Forced and child labour in the sectors of cocoa, coffee and tea**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Ulrich Oehme and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 14641](#)

No further action

B. MODIFICATION OF REFERENCE

1. **The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco**
 Bureau decision
Reference 4246 of 14 October 2016 – validity: 14 October 2018 (reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*)

Reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*

APPENDIX II

List of participants

President of the Parliamentary Assembly / Présidente de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Mme Liliane MAURY PASQUIER Switzerland

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Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)

Mr Frank SCHWABE Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group (SOC) /
Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)

Mr Ian LIDDELL-GRAINGER Group of the European Conservatives (EC) /
Groupe des conservateurs européens (CE)

Mr Hendrik DAEMS Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
(ALDE) /
Groupe de l'alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe
(ADLE)

Mr Tiny KOX Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) /
Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)

Ms Dubravka FILIPOVSKI Free Democrats Group (FDG) / Groupe des démocrates libres
(GDL)
(in the absence of the Chairperson /
en l'absence de la Présidente)

Vice-Presidents of the Assembly / Vice-président(e)s de l'Assemblée

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Ms Stella KYRIAKIDES Cyprus

Mr Włodzimierz BERNACKI Poland

Ms Marianne MIKKO Estonia

Mr Alfred HEER Switzerland

Mme Nicole TRISSE France

Mr Samad SEYIDOV Azerbaijan

Mr Andreas NICK Germany

Ms Rósa Björk BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Iceland

Mr Volodymyr ARIEV Ukraine

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Mr Hendrik DAEMS Belgium

Ms Marijana BALIĆ Croatia
(in the absence of the Chairperson /
en l'absence de la Présidente)

Ms Stella KYRIAKIDES Cyprus

Ms Marianne MIKKO Estonia

Ms Maria GUZENINA Finland

Mme Nicole TRISSE France

Mr Andreas NICK Germany

Mr Zsolt CSENGER-ZALAN Hungary
(in the absence of the Chairperson /
en l'absence de la Présidente)

Ms Rósa Björk BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Iceland

Mr Alvis MANIERO Italy

Mr Emanuel ZINGERIS Lithuania
(in the absence of the Chairperson /
en l'absence de la Présidente)

Mr Emanuel MALLIA Malta

Mr Mart van de VEN Netherlands

Mr Włodzimierz BERNACKI Poland

Mr Andrej ŠIRCELJ Slovenia

Ms Carmen LEYTE	Spain
Ms Boriána ÅBERG (in the absence of the Chairperson / <i>en l'absence de la Présidente</i>)	Sweden
Mr Volodymyr ARIEV	Ukraine
Sir Roger GALE	United Kingdom

**Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /
Présidente de la Commission des questions politiques de la démocratie**

Dame Cheryl GILLAN (in the absence of the Chairperson / <i>en l'absence de la Présidente</i>)	United Kingdom
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**Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights /
Présidente de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme**

Ms Thorhildur Sunna ÆVARSDOTTIR	Iceland
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**Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development /
Président de la Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable**

Mr Stefan SCHENNACH	Austria
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**Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination /
Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination**

Ms Elvira KOVÁCS	Serbia
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Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) / Commission pour le respect des obligations et engagements des États membres du Conseil de l'Europe (Commission de suivi)

Sir Roger GALE	United Kingdom
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Rapporteurs (not members of the Standing Committee / non-membres de la Commission permanente)

Dame Cheryl GILLAN	United Kingdom
Ms MirenEdurne GORROTXATEGUI	Spain
Mr Boriss CILEVICS	Latvia
Mr Ronan MULLEN	Ireland

Invited personalities / Personnalités invitées

Ms Paula RISIKKO	Speaker of the Finnish Parliament / Présidente du Parlement de Finlande
Mr Timo SOINI	Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe / ministre des Affaires étrangères de la Finlande, Président du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe

Delegation Secretaries / Secrétaires de délégations

Mr Emin MAMMADOV	Azerbaijan
Ms Sonja LANGENHAECK	Belgium
Mr Panicos POURGOURIDES	Cyprus
Ms Veronika KRUPOVÁ	Czech Republic
Ms Eva VERBIAS	Estonia
Ms Gunilla CARLANDER	Finland
Ms Maria FAGERHOLM	Finland
M. Laurent SAUNIER	France
Mr Michael HILGER	Germany
Ms Sofia VERGI	Greece
Ms Judit GOTTSCHALL	Hungary
Ms Bylgia ÁRNADÓTTIR	Iceland
Ms Eileen LAWLOR	Ireland

Ms Fabrizia BIENTINESI	Italy
Mr Federico CASELLI	Italy
Mr Martins OLEKŠS	Latvia
Ms Femmy BAKKER-DE JONG	Netherlands
Ms Ingrid HØDNEBØ	Norway
Ms Anna TRĘBACZKIEWICZ	Poland
Ms Alja ŠKIBIN	Slovenia
Ms Petra SJÖSTRÖM	Sweden
Mr Daniel ZEHNDER	Switzerland
Mr Nicholas WRIGHT	United Kingdom

Secretaries of Political Groups / Secrétaires des Groupes politiques

Ms Denise O'HARA	EPP/CD / PPE/DC
Mme Francesca ARBOGAST	SOC
Ms Peter KALLENBERGER	ALDE / ADLE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée Parlementaire

Mr Wojciech SAWICKI	Secretary General / Secrétaire Général
Mr Mark NEVILLE	Head of the Private Office / Chef de Cabinet
Mr Alfred SIXTO	Head of the Table Office / Chef du Service de la Séance
Mme Isild HEURTIN	Head of the Secretariat of the Bureau / Chef du Secrétariat du Bureau
Mme Kateryna GAYEVSKA	Secretary of the Bureau and the Standing Committee / Secrétaire du Bureau et de la Commission permanente
Mr Angus MACDONALD	Administrative Officer, Communication Division / Administrateur, Division de la communication
Ms Sally-Ann HONEYMAN	Specialised Administrative Assistant, Table Office / Assistante administrative spécialisée du Service de la Séance
Mme Martine MEYER	Assistant of the Standing Committee / Assistante de la Commission permanente
Ms Susan FELLAH	Assistant of the Standing Committee / Assistante de la Commission permanente
Mme Annick SCHNEIDER	Assistant to the Secretary General / Assistant to the Bureau Assistante du Secrétaire Général / Assistante du Bureau
Mme Anne GAREL	Assistant of the Bureau / Assistante du Bureau

Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe

Mr Bjorn BERGE	Secretary to the Committee of Ministers / Secrétaire du Comité des Ministres
Ms Biljana PRLJA	Political Adviser, Directorate of Political Affairs/ Conseillère politique, Direction des affaires politiques
Ms Anna RURKA	President of the Conference of the INGOS / Présidente de la Conférence des OING

Other participants / Autre participants

Ms Luz ESTEBAN	President of the Spanish Confederation of Deaf People
Ms Katerina HADZI-MICEVA EVANS	Conference of INGOS / Conférence des OING
Mr Markku JOKINEN	President of the European Union of the Deaf
MsEeva TUPI	Executive Director of the World Federation of the Deaf