



11 October 2018

## **Report of the independent investigation body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly**

### **Findings on the behaviour of individual PACE members and former members**

#### **Decisions of the committee**

Further to the decisions made by the Committee on Rules of Procedure on 24 April 2018 on the follow-up to the recommendations and conclusions of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly (IBAC) relating to the behaviour of Assembly members and former members mentioned in its report, the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs convened its fifth meeting on 11 October 2018 devoted to the consideration of the last remaining cases mentioned in the IBAC report:

– *Case of Mr Ondřej Benešik*

1. The committee took note of the IBAC's conclusions which noted that Mr Ondřej Benešik (Czech Republic, EPP/CD) has failed to comply with his duty, as PACE member, to co-operate with the Investigation Body by not responding to its request for the submission of a written statement. The committee heard Mr Benešik today and took note of the written comments he provided on 26 April 2018.

2. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly,<sup>1</sup> the committee found that Mr Benešik has not failed to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct by not responding to IBAC's request for the submission of a written statement.

– *Case of Mr Robert Walter*

3. The committee took note of the IBAC's conclusions which found that, with regard to a continuing conflict of interest with regard to Azerbaijan, Mr Walter breached paragraphs 5.1, 5.5, 5.6, 8 and 9 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as paragraph 1.1.1 of the Code of Conduct for rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the context of the 2013 presidential election in Azerbaijan and the report "Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan". The committee heard Mr Walter today and took note of the documents and written comments he provided.

4. The committee found that, in the case of Mr Walter, there has been a minor breach of the ethical rules of the Parliamentary Assembly; it decided that he shall be deprived of the right to access the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly premises for life.

These decisions are effective from the date of approval by the committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 23 of the Code of conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly: "If the committee finds that the allegations have no basis, it will inform the complainants and the member concerned".