



*BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY*

**AS/Bur/CB (2016) 11**

17 October 2016

## To the Members of the Assembly

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 14 October 2016

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday, 14 October 2016 in Strasbourg, with Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Fourth part-session of 2016 (Strasbourg, 10-14 October):** approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly to texts adopted by the Assembly, as set out in Appendix 1;
- **Standing Committee (Nicosia, 25 November 2016):** took note of a request for a debate under urgent procedure on *The situation in Aleppo* tabled by 23 members of the EPP/CD Group and decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for the preparation of a report to be debated during the meeting of the Standing Committee in Nicosia; took note of the preliminary draft agenda of this meeting;
- **First part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 23-27 January):** drew up the preliminary draft agenda;
- **Election observation:**
  - i. *Azerbaijan: referendum on amendments to the Constitution (26 September 2016):* took note of the memorandum by the Chairperson of the ad hoc committee as well as of the Preliminary Opinion by the Venice Commission;
  - ii. *Morocco: parliamentary elections (7 October 2016):* took note of the statement on the observation mission;
  - iii. *Georgia: parliamentary elections (8 and 30 October 2016, latter date to be confirmed):* took note of the statement on the first round of the elections; decided to observe the second round; constituted an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of one representative of each political group, as well as of the corapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee; approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee and appointed Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) as its Chairperson (Appendix 2);
  - iv. *Montenegro: parliamentary elections (16 October 2016):* approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 3) and appointed Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD) as its Chairperson to replace Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD);
  - v. *Republic of Moldova: presidential election (30 October 2016):* took note of the statement on the pre-electoral mission and approved the final list of members of the ad hoc committee (Appendix 4);
  - vi. *Bulgaria: presidential election (6 November 2016):* approved the revised list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe this election (Appendix 5) and appointed Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD) as its Chairperson to replace Mr Luís Leite Ramos (Portugal, EPP/CD);

- vii. *“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”*: early parliamentary elections (11 December 2016, date to be confirmed, subject to receiving an invitation): approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 6) and appointed Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) as its Chairperson;
- **References and transmissions to committees**: considered and approved the references and transmissions as presented in Appendix 7, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the addendum to the Progress report;
  - **Communication by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe**: held an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and took note of the written communication by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
  - **2016 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 7-9 November)**: took note of the programme and approved the final composition of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum (Appendix 8);
  - **Issues raised by committees**:
    - i. *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development*:
      - . took note of the revised proposals on the modernisation of the Europe Prize (Appendix 9), subject to ratification by the Assembly;
      - . authorised Lord John Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC), rapporteur on *Climate change and implementation of the Paris Agreement*, to participate in the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016, for a three-day visit including a parliamentary meeting on 13 November 2016;
      - . took note of the decision of the Committee not to prepare a separate report on *Balancing the right to work, the right to strike*;
    - ii. *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination*:
      - . took note of a letter by Ms Elena Centemero, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, and asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to draft, in consultation with her, a memorandum taking stock of measures to improve gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the work of the Assembly;
    - iii. *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*:
      - . authorised Mr Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan*, to carry out an additional fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan by the end of 2016;
      - . took note of the decision of the Committee to set up an ad hoc sub-committee on recent developments in Turkey and authorised the ad hoc sub-committee to carry out a visit to Turkey on 20-23 November 2016;
  - **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (14 October 2016 - 23 January 2017)**: appointed Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC) as Rapporteur;
  - **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)**: drew up the list of candidates for the CPT in respect of Portugal, to be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers;
  - **Composition of the Monitoring Committee**: on the basis of a proposal by the ALDE Group, nominated Ms Kristýna Zelenková (Czech Republic) and Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland), subject to ratification by the Assembly;
  - **Date and place of the next meetings**:
    - Thursday, 24 November 2016, Nicosia at 3 pm;
    - Friday, 16 December 2016, Paris at 9 am;
    - Monday, 23 January 2017, Strasbourg at 8 am.

Sonia Sirtori, Angela Garabagiu

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General, 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

## Appendix 1

### Proposals for follow-up to texts adopted during the fourth part-session of 2016 (Strasbourg, 10-14 October)

#### **Resolution 2132 (2016) on *Political consequences of the Russian aggression in Ukraine***

(Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Kristýna Zeličková (Czech Republic, ALDE))

Paragraph 16: "The Assembly resolves to continue to follow closely the political and humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Ukraine as well the human rights and rule of law-related challenges it raises in areas under or outside Ukrainian Government control and to consider these issues at its October 2017 part-session, provided there is no emergency requiring that it be done sooner."

and

#### **Resolution 2133 (2016) on *Legal remedies for human rights violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities*** (Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Ms Marieluise Beck (Germany, ALDE))

Paragraph 18: "The Assembly resolves to continue observing the human rights situation in the conflict zone in the Donbas region and in Crimea as a matter of priority."

Follow-up: to invite the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) to take these resolutions into consideration in the context of the ongoing monitoring procedure with respect to Ukraine (co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee: Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) and Mr Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD)).

#### **Current affairs debate on *Situation in Turkey in the light of the attempted coup d'Etat***

Follow-up: to invite the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) to take into consideration the outcome of the debate in the context of post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey (Co-rapporteur: Ms Ingebjørg Godskesen, Norway, EC).

## **Appendix 2**

### **Ad hoc committee for the observation of the second round of the parliamentary elections in Georgia (30 October 2016, date to be confirmed) - list of members**

**Chairperson:** Emanuelis ZINGERIS (Lithuania, EPP/CD)

#### **Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)**

Emanuelis ZINGERIS, Lithuania

#### ***Substitute***

Giuseppe GALATI, Italy

#### **Socialist Group (SOC)**

Paolo CORSINI, Italy

#### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)**

Jordi XUCLÀ, Spain

#### ***Substitute***

Alfred HEER, Switzerland

#### **European Conservatives Group (EC)**

Mark PRITCHARD, United Kingdom

#### **Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)**

...

#### **Co-Rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee (*ex officio*)**

Boriss CILEVIČS, Latvia

Kerstin LUNDGREN, Sweden

#### **Secretariat**

Bodgan TORCATORIU, Administrator, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division

Daniele GASTL, Assistant, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division

#### **Venice Commission**

Gaël MARTIN-MICALLEF, Administrator, Secretariat of the Venice Commission

### **Appendix 3**

#### **Ad hoc committee to observe the parliamentary elections in Montenegro (16 October 2016) - final list of members**

**Chairperson:** Aleksander POČIEJ (Poland, EPP/CD)

#### **Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)**

Gabriela PESKOVÁ, Czech Republic  
Aleksander POČIEJ, Poland  
Samvel FARMANYAN, Armenia

#### **Socialist Group (SOC)**

Gülsün BILGEHAN, Turkey  
Silvia BONET, Andorra  
Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland

#### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)**

Adele GAMBARO, Italy

#### **European Conservatives Group (EC)**

Erkan KANDEMİR, Turkey

#### **Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)**

Matjaž HANŽEK, Slovenia

#### **Co-Rapporteur of the Monitoring Committee (*ex officio*)**

Ionuț-Marian STROE, Romania

#### **Secretariat**

Ivi-Triin ODRATS, Administrator, Parliamentary Assembly  
Anne GODFREY, Assistant, Election Observation and Interparliamentary Cooperation Division

#### **Venice Commission**

James HAMILTON, Expert  
Domenico VALLARIO, Assistant Lawyer, Venice Commission

## Appendix 4

### Ad hoc committee to observe the presidential election in the Republic of Moldova (30 October 2016) - revised list of members

**Chairperson:** Elisabeth SCHNEIDER-SCHNEITER (Switzerland, EPP/CD)

#### **Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)**

Viorel Riceard BADEA, Romania  
Colm BROPHY, Ireland  
Marie-Christine DALLOZ, France  
Elisabeth SCHNEIDER-SCHNEITER, Switzerland \*  
Pavol UNHURIAN, Ukraine  
Aleksander POČIEJ, Poland  
Jasen MESIĆ, Croatia  
Ihor HUZ, Ukraine

#### **Substitutes**

Damien ABAD, France  
Iryna GERASHCHENKO, Ukraine  
Denis JACQUAT, France  
Joe O'REILLY, Ireland  
Rónán MULLEN, Ireland  
Andrzej HALICKI, Poland

#### **Socialist Group (SOC)**

Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria \*  
Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro  
Maryvonne BLONDIN, France  
Eleonora CIMBRO, Italy  
Claude ADAM, Luxembourg  
Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland  
Catherine QUERE, France

#### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)**

Alain DESTEXHE, Belgium

#### **Substitute**

Luis Alberto ORELLANA, Italy

#### **European Conservatives Group (EC)**

Erkan KANDEMİR, Turkey  
Suat ÖNAL, Turkey

#### **Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)**

...

#### **Co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee (ex officio)**

Valentina LESKAJ, Albania \*  
Ögmundur JÓNASSON, Iceland \*

#### **Secretariat**

Chemavon CHAHBAZIAN, Head of Secretariat, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division  
Franck DAESCHLER, Principal Administrative Assistant, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division  
Anne GODFREY, Assistant, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division

#### **Venice Commission**

Oliver KASK, member of the Venice Commission  
Pierre GARRONE, Head of Division Election and Political Parties, Secretariat of the Venice Commission

\* members of the pre-election delegation

## **Appendix 5**

### **Ad hoc committee to observe the presidential election in Bulgaria (6 November 2016) - revised list of members**

**Chairperson:** Joseph O'REILLY (Ireland, EPP/CD)

#### **Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)**

Aleksandar NIKOLOSKI, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"  
Joseph O'REILLY, Ireland

#### **Substitutes**

Sylvie GOY-CHAVENT, France  
Giuseppe GALATI, Italy  
Damien ABAD, France  
Elena CENTEMERO, Italy  
Ihor HUZ, Hungary

#### **Socialist Group (SOC)**

Geneviève GOSSELIN-FLEURY, France  
Renata DESKOSKA, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"  
Idália SERRÃO, Portugal

#### **Substitute**

Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro

#### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)**

Anne MULDER, Netherlands  
Luis Alberto ORELLANA, Italy

#### **Substitutes**

Carles JORDANA MADERO, Andorra  
Ganira PASHAYEVA, Azerbaijan

#### **European Conservatives Group (EC)**

Mark PRITCHARD, United Kingdom  
Suat ÖNAL, Turkey

#### **Substitute**

Lord Richard BALFE, United Kingdom

#### **Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)**

Ertuğrul KÜRKÇÜ, Turkey

#### **Substitute**

...

#### **Co-Rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee (ex officio)**

Franck SCHWABE, Germany

...

#### **Secretariat**

Bogdan TORCĂTORIU, Administrator, Election Observation and Interparliamentary Cooperation Division  
Danièle GASTL, Assistant, Election Observation and Interparliamentary Cooperation Division

#### **Venice Commission**

Eirik HOLMØYVIK, Member of the Venice Commission  
Gaël MARTIN-MICALLEF, Administrator, Secretariat of the Venice Commission

## **Appendix 6**

**Ad hoc committee to observe the early parliamentary elections in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (11 December 2016, date to be confirmed, subject to receiving an invitation)**

**Chairperson:** Stefan SCHENNACH (Austria, SOC)

### **Group of the European People’s Party (EPP/CD)**

Vladyslav GOLUB, Ukraine  
Vusal HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan  
Frank JENSSEN, Norway  
Luís LEITE RAMOS, Portugal  
Rónán MULLEN, Ireland  
Egidijus VAREIKIS, Lithuania \*

#### ***Substitutes***

Elena CENTEMERO, Italy  
Şaban DİŞLİ, Turkey  
Iryna GERASHCHENKO, Ukraine  
Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland

### **Socialist Group (SOC)**

Valeri JABLIANOV, Bulgaria  
Georges FOULKES, United Kingdom  
Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Marit MAIJ, The Netherlands  
Muslum MAMMADOV, Azerbaijan  
Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria \*  
Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro

#### ***Substitute***

Antonio GUTTIEREZ, Spain  
Deniz BAYKAL, Turkey  
Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland  
Idalia SERRAO, Portugal  
Catherine QUERE, France

### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)**

Cristina DE PIETRO, Italy  
Carles JORDANA, Andorra

#### ***Substitutes***

Pauline KRIKKE, The Netherlands  
Alfred HEER, Switzerland  
Luis Alberto ORELLANA, Italy

### **European Conservatives Group (EC)**

Suat ÖNAL, Turkey  
Jaroslaw OBREMSKI, Poland

#### ***Substitutes***

...

### **Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)**

Matjaž HANZEK, Slovenia

#### ***Substitute***

...

**Co-Rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee (*ex officio*)**

Valeriu GHILETCHI, Republic of Moldova

Lise CHRISTOFFERSEN, Norway

**Secretariat**

Bogdan TORCĂTORIU, Administrator, Election Observation and Interparliamentary Cooperation Division

Franck DAESCHLER, Principal Administrative Assistant, Election Observation and Interparliamentary Cooperation Division

**Venice Commission**

...

\* members of the pre-election delegation

## Appendix 7

### References and transmissions to committees

#### A. References to committees

[Doc. 14100](#), motion for a resolution, Deliberate destruction and illegal trafficking of cultural heritage: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*;

[Doc. 14101](#), motion for a resolution, The need to enable the Committee of Ministers to give answers to the Assembly even in the absence of consensus: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*;

[Doc. 14106](#), motion for a resolution, Growing hate speech and role of the political leaders in fighting hate crime: follow-up to ECRI Recommendations: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;

[Doc. 14107](#), motion for a recommendation, Detainees with severe disabilities in Europe: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*;

[Doc. 14109](#), motion for a resolution Investor protection and human rights, reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Human rights compatibility of investor–State arbitration in international investment protection agreements" (Doc. 13691 – Ref. 4115)*;

[Doc. 14110](#), motion for a resolution, Venice Commission's "Rule of Law Checklist": reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

[Doc. 14115](#), motion for a resolution, Addressing forced marriage: legal provisions and promising practices: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable development *for opinion*;

[Doc. 14116](#), motion for a resolution, Effectively combating negative impacts of European companies operating abroad: consultation of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *on possible follow-up*;

[Doc. 14117](#), motion for a resolution, Freedom of choice and personal lifestyle: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;

[Doc. 14118](#), motion for a resolution, The challenge of the demographic boom expected in Africa: what is Europe's implication?: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe"* (Doc. 14005 – Ref. 4203);

[Doc. 14134](#), motion for a resolution, Discrimination in access to employment: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;

[Doc. 14154](#), Draft protocol amending the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ETS No. 167): reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

Bureau decision, [Resolution 2061 \(2015\)](#), The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;

Bureau decision, Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD): reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;

Bureau decision, The situation in Aleppo: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*.

**B. Replies after consultation**

[Doc. 13956](#), motion for a resolution, Private and family life: achieving equality regardless of sexual orientation: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;

[Doc. 14053](#), motion for a resolution, Human rights in the relations between the European Union and Cuba: no further action.

**C. Modification of a reference**

[Doc. 13965](#), motion for a resolution Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the “Cairo Declaration”? (Ref. 4188 of 4 March 2016 – validity: 4 March 2018): reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for opinion*.

**D. Extensions of references**

[Doc. 13614](#), motion for a resolution, Strengthening the rule of law in South-East European countries through targeted reform of the legal system (Reference 4087 of 17 November 2014 – validity: 17 November 2016): extension until 30 June 2017;

[Doc. 13322](#), motion for a resolution, Defending the *acquis* of the Council of Europe: preserving 65 years of successful intergovernmental cooperation (Reference 4009 of 22 November 2013 – validity: 31 December 2016): extension until 30 September 2017;

[Doc. 13589](#), motion for a resolution, Online media and journalism: challenges and accountability (Reference 4082 of 3 October 2014 – validity: 3 October 2016): extension until 31 December 2016;

[Doc. 13628](#), motion for a resolution, The crash of Polish Air Force Tu-154 transporting the Polish delegation on 10 April 2010 on the Russian Federation's territory (Reference 4103 of 26 January 2015 – validity: 26 January 2017): extension until 31 January 2018;

[Doc. 12306](#), motion for a resolution, Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: Election of judges tabled by Ms Bemelmans-Vidéc and other members of the Assembly (Reference 3700 of 4 October 2010 – validity: 31 December 2016): extension until 31 December 2017;

Bureau decision, The situation in Belarus (Reference 3841 of 9 March 2012 – validity: 31 January 2017): extension until 31 July 2017;

[Doc. 13620](#), motion for a resolution, Effective representation and participation in the Parliamentary Assembly of opposition parliamentarians in the member States (Reference 4091 of 17 November 2014 – validity: 17 November 2016): extension until 30 November 2017.

## **Appendix 8**

### **List of members of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the 2016 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 7-9 November)**

#### **Chairperson**

Mr Pedro Agramunt (Spain, EPP/CD)

#### **Presidential Committee**

Mr Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD)

Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC)

Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE)

Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom, EC)

Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL)

#### **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

Mr Deniz Baykal (Turkey, SOC)

Mr René Rouquet (France, SOC)

Mr Senad Šepić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD)

Ms Olena Sotnyk (Ukraine, ALDE)

Mr Krzysztof Truskolaski (Poland, ALDE)

#### **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**

Ms Eka Beselia (Georgia, SOC)

Mr Sergio Divina (Italy, NR)

#### **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE)

Mr İlhan Kesici (Turkey, SOC)

Ms Milica Marković (Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC)

Mr Mikayel Melkumyan (Armenia, EC)

Ms Ganira Pashayeva (Azerbaijan, ALDE)

#### **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**

Mr Duarte Marques (Portugal, EPP/CD)

Ms Judith Pallarés (Andorra, ALDE)

Mr Florin Costin Pâslaru (Romania, SOC)

Ms Nadiia Savchenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD)

#### **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**

Mr Christian Barilaro (Monaco, EPP/CD)

Mr Paolo Corsini (Italy, SOC)

Mr Claudio Fazzino (Italy, EPP/CD)

Ms Adele Gambaro (Italy, ALDE)

Mr Francesco Giro (Italy, EPP/CD)

Mr Rafael Huseynov (Azerbaijan, ALDE)

Ms Gabriela Pecková (Czech Republic, EPP/CD)

#### **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**

Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD)

Mr Sasa Magazinović (Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC)

Ms Carmen Quintanilla (Spain, EPP/CD)

Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC)

#### **Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs**

Ms Liliana Palihovici (Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD)

## Appendix 9

### Revised proposals on the modernisation of the Europe Prize

#### Aims and modalities of the modernisation of the Europe Prize

Since the second half of 2015, the Secretariat has been working on proposals related to the modernisation of the Europe Prize with a view to enhancing its attractiveness, relevance and visibility, while leaving its fundamental principles unchanged. Preliminary proposals were presented to the Sub-Committee at its meeting on 19 April 2016 in Strasbourg, covering the criteria for awarding the Prize, enhanced relations between the Secretariat and the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize, improved visibility for the Prize and a simplification of the online application system, as well as of the processing of applications by the Secretariat. More developed proposals were discussed during the Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 June 2016 in Strasbourg.

The Sub-Committee is now called upon to consider and approve the revised proposals included in this document at its meeting on 8 July 2016 in Girona, with a view to approval by the Plenary Committee at its meeting on 21 September 2016 in Paris, and information of the Assembly of the decisions taken via the progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly during the October 2016 part-session. This would ensure that appropriate information can be distributed to municipalities (and necessary changes made to the on-line application system) in time for the decisions to come into force for the 2017 edition of the Europe Prize. Since the President's proposal for a new "Neighbourhood Prize" requires further reflection, regarding both the precise criteria to be applied and its budgetary (and human resources) implications, it is proposed to postpone decisions thereon<sup>1</sup>.

#### 1. Criteria for the Europe Prize

The criteria for the award of the Europe Prize are regrouped into the following four categories:<sup>2</sup>

1. twinning activities, contacts with municipalities abroad, co-operation and partnerships (including personal exchanges, in particular youth work, as well as cultural activities);
2. European events (including participation in European Local Democracy Week), Europe Day (5 May) and propagation of the European idea;
3. European and international solidarity;
4. membership of organisations of local authorities.

The undertakings as regards the events linked to the awards stay the same.<sup>3</sup>

Simultaneous awards of more than one distinction to one municipality are excluded.

The on-line application system will be simplified according to the new criteria. In addition, every municipality will have the possibility of adding one paragraph summarising its application, in order to highlight why the municipality believes it should be awarded one of the distinctions. Applications are due on 15 January of every year.

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<sup>1</sup> This means that the first award of the new Prize would take place in 2018 (provided the creation of the Prize is decided upon).

<sup>2</sup> The criteria for the award of the Europe Prize have remained unchanged for many years:

- Membership of organisations of local authorities;
- Twinning activities;
- Contacts with municipalities abroad;
- Personal exchanges;
- European events;
- Europe Day (5 May);
- Propagation of the European idea;
- European solidarity.

<sup>3</sup> Municipalities must undertake to send a representative to Strasbourg to take part in the award ceremony if awarded the European Diploma; and if awarded the Flag of Honour or the Plaque of Honour, to organise a public ceremony, with active participation by young people, for its presentation by a (honorary) member of the Parliamentary Assembly. If awarded the Europe Prize (the highest distinction), municipalities are required to organise a public ceremony, with the active participation of the local population, for its presentation by the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize.

## 2. Co-operation and visibility

For historical reasons, the Europe Prize is not evenly distributed across Europe, nor as well-known in all 47 Council of Europe member States. With a view to increasing the visibility of the Europe Prize across all countries and regions thereof, the decision is taken to:

1. inform under-represented countries about the Europe Prize, including through contacts with the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities' delegations (at parliamentary and Secretariat level);
2. contact different associations of local authorities, in order to enhance co-operation and communication with:
  - UCLG, a Global Network of Cities based in Barcelona (representing over 240 000 towns and cities);
  - EUROCITIES, a network set up by mayors, based in Brussels;
  - CEMR (the Council of European Municipalities and Regions), a non-profit-making association founded in 1951 with participatory status with the Council of Europe (the largest association of local and regional authorities in Europe), based in Brussels,
 as well as with national associations of local authorities of under-represented countries;
3. intensify co-operation with the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize, which now brings together 76 winning cities and organises a yearly event on a topical subject;<sup>4</sup>
4. intensify co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in particular with regard to European Local Democracy Week.

## 3. Attractiveness and relevance

The highest distinction, the Europe Prize, currently comes with a bursary of 10 000 Euros to allow young people from the winning municipality to visit the European institutions in Strasbourg. Subject to the availability of funds, it is proposed to increase this bursary to 20 000 Euros to take into account the higher prices of travel and allow a greater number of young people to benefit.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The Association is currently working on its own reform, see Klaipeda Declaration of 2-4 June 2016.

<sup>5</sup> The bursary was last increased in 2005, from 7.600 to 10.000 Euros. However, in practice, some municipalities have received only 5.000 Euros each, as the Europe Prize was awarded to two municipalities jointly in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015.