



*BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY*

**AS/Bur/CB (2017) 03**

14 March 2017

## To the Members of the Assembly

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Madrid on 9 and 10 March 2017

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Thursday, 9 March and Friday, 10 March 2017 in Madrid, with Mr Pedro Agramunt, President of the Assembly, and then with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Allegations of corruption in the Assembly:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly and decided to invite the leaders of the five political groups to prepare a revised proposal for adoption at the next Bureau meeting;
- **Standing Committee meeting (Madrid, 10 March 2017):**
  - i. *Request for a current affairs debate:* took note of a request tabled by Mr Volodymyr Arieu on behalf of the delegation of Ukraine for the Standing Committee to hold a current affairs debate on “The escalation of the military conflict in the Donbass area”; decided to recommend that the Standing Committee hold such a debate and designated Mr Georgii Logvynskyi (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as the first speaker;
  - ii. *Consideration of the draft agenda:* took note of the draft agenda;
- **Second part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 24-28 April):**
  - i. *Draft agenda:* drew up the draft agenda;
  - ii. *Request for a current affairs debate:* took note of a request tabled by Mr Talip Küçükcan on behalf of the delegation of Turkey for the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on “European values under threat: addressing rising populism, xenophobia, antisemitism and islamophobia in Europe”;
  - iii. *Request for a debate under urgent procedure:* took note of a request tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on “Political consequences of the new Israeli Settlement Regulation Law”;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** considered and approved the references and transmissions as presented in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;

- **Election observation:**

- i. *Meeting of the Chairpersons of ad hoc committees for the observation of elections (25 January 2017):* took note of the report of the meeting;
- ii. *Bulgaria: early parliamentary elections (26 March 2017):* approved the revised list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 2);
- iii. *Armenia: parliamentary elections (2 April 2017):* took note of the statement of the pre-electoral mission as well as of the letter by Ms Naghdalyan, Chairperson of the delegation of Armenia, and approved the revised list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections (Appendix 3);
- iv. *Serbia: presidential election (2 April 2017):* took note of the date of the election;
- v. *Turkey: referendum on the constitutional amendments (16 April 2017):* took note of the invitation to observe the referendum; approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to observe this referendum and appointed Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) as its Chairperson (Appendix 4);
- vi. *Albania: parliamentary elections (18 June 2017):* subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe these elections and constituted an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 30 members (EPP/CD: 11; SOC: 10, EC: 4, ALDE: 4, UEL: 1 - in accordance with the D'Hondt system) as well as of the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee and authorised a pre-electoral mission;
- vii. *Schedule of elections for 2017:* took note of the elections calendar for 2017 as presented in the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;

- **Issues raised by committees:**

- i. *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:* authorised:
  - Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC), Rapporteur on the "Evaluation of the Partnership for democracy status in respect of the Parliament of Jordan", to carry out a fact-finding visit to Jordan in 2017, in the framework of the preparation of her report;
  - Mr Bogdan Klich (Poland, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on the "Evaluation of the Partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco", to carry out a fact-finding visit to Morocco in 2017, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
  - Mr Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on "The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan", to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kazakhstan in 2017, in the framework of the preparation of his report;

- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:**

- i. *Monitoring Committee:* on the basis of a proposal by the SOC Group, nominated Ms Rosie Winterton (United Kingdom) to replace Lord John Prescott (United Kingdom);
- ii. *Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:* on the basis of a proposal by the EC Group, nominated Ms Serap Yaşar (Turkey);

- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised:

- the ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and the ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs<sup>1</sup> to participate in the International Conference on "The interaction between the political majority and the opposition in a democracy" on 6 and 7 April 2017 in Bucharest;
- the Monitoring Committee to meet on 15-16 May 2017 in Helsinki;
- the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet on 14-15 June 2017 in Bornholm Island, Denmark;

---

<sup>1</sup> Subject to the decision of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs. Subsequently, the Committee set up its ad hoc Sub-Committee at its meeting on 13 March 2017.

- **Dates and places of next meetings:**

Monday, 24 April 2017, Strasbourg, at 7.30 am (time to be confirmed);  
Friday, 28 April 2017, Strasbourg, at 8.30 am;  
Monday, 29 May 2017, Prague, at 3 pm;  
Monday, 26 June 2017, Strasbourg, at 8 am;  
Friday, 30 June 2017, Strasbourg, at 8.30 am;  
Monday, 4 September 2017, Paris, at 9 am.

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

### References and transmissions to committees

#### A. References and transmissions to committees

[Doc. 13967](#), motion for a resolution, The need to shed light on the background of the murder of Boris Nemtsov: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

[Doc. 14241](#), motion for a resolution, Integration, empowerment and protection of migrant children through compulsory education: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;

[Doc. 14243](#), motion for a recommendation, Creation of the position of "Internet Ombudsman" in charge of assessing the legal or illegal nature of internet contents through screening procedures: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*;

[Doc. 14244](#), motion for a resolution, Recently arrived refugees and migrants at risk of radicalisation: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;

[Doc. 14246](#), motion for a resolution, Labour migration from Eastern Europe and its impact on socio-demographic processes in these countries: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;

[Doc. 14249](#), motion for a resolution, Family reunification in the Council of Europe member States: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;

[Doc. 14250](#), motion for a resolution, Election of the Judges to the European Court of Human Rights: reference to the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights *for report*;

[Doc. 14251](#), motion for a resolution, Promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;

[Doc. 14253](#), motion for a resolution, Alexander Adamescu and the abuse of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW): no further action.

#### B. Modification of references

[Doc. 13903](#), motion for a recommendation, Integration of refugees in times of critical pressure: learning from recent experience and examples of best practice (Ref. 4169 of 25 January 2016): reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*;

[Doc. 13974](#), motion for a resolution, Migration as an opportunity for European development (Ref. 4196 of 22 April 2016): 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*;

[Doc. 14005](#), motion for a resolution, A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe (Ref. 4203 of 22 April 2016): reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion* ;

[Doc. 14168](#), motion for a resolution, Human rights implications of the European response to transit migration across the Mediterranean (Ref. 4252 of 25 November 2016): reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*.

## **Appendix 2**

### **List of members of the ad hoc committee to observe the early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (26 March 2017)**

**Chairperson:** Marie-Christine DALLOZ, France (EPP/CD)

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

Marie-Christine DALLOZ, France  
Nicole DURANTON, France  
Rónán MULLEN, Ireland

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

José CEPEDA, Spain  
Anne-Yvonne LE DAIN, France  
Idália SERRÃO, Portugal  
Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro  
Gordan MARAS, Croatia  
Dimitri TSKITISHVILI, Georgia

#### **Substitute**

Renata DESKOSKA, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

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

Cheryl GILLAN, United Kingdom  
Nino GOGUADZE, Georgia  
John HOWELL, United Kingdom

#### **Substitute**

Jarosław OBREMSKI, Poland

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

Olena SOTNYK, Ukraine  
Mart van de VEN, Netherlands  
Alfred HEER, Switzerland

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

Matjaž HANŽEK, Slovenia

#### **Venice Commission**

Eirik HOLMØYVIK, Substitute member, Norway  
Gaël MARTIN-MICALLEF, Legal advisor, Venice Commission

#### **Secretariat**

Chemavon CHAHBAZIAN, Head of Division, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division  
Danièle GASTL, Assistant, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division

### **Appendix 3**

#### **List of members of the ad hoc committee to observe the parliamentary elections in Armenia (2 April 2017)**

**Chairperson:** Liliane MAURY PASQUIER, Switzerland (SOC)\*

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

Boriana ÅBERG, Sweden  
Andrzej HALICKI, Poland  
Andres HERKEL, Estonia  
Luís LEITE RAMOS, Portugal  
Kęstutis MASIULIS, Lithuania  
Rónán MULLEN, Ireland  
Aleksander POĆIEJ, Poland  
Virgilijus PODERYYS, Lithuania  
Attila TILKI, Hungary  
Volkmar VOGEL, Germany  
Nicole DURANTON, France

#### **Substitutes**

Colm BROPHY, Ireland  
Maura HOPKINS, Ireland

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

René ROUQUET, France  
Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria  
Angela SMITH, United Kingdom  
Pascale CROZON, France  
Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland  
Petra De SUTTER, Belgium  
Eka BESELIA, Georgia  
Liliane MAURY PASQUIER, Switzerland  
Claude ADAM, Luxembourg  
Zviad KVATCHANTIRADZE, Georgia

#### **Substitutes**

Miroslav NENUTIL, Czech Republic  
Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro  
Gordan MARAS, Croatia  
Geneviève GOSSELIN, France

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

Richard BALFE, United Kingdom  
Józef LEŚNIAK, Poland

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

Nellijs KLEINBERGA, Latvia  
Adele GAMBARO, Italy\*  
Anne KALMARI, Finland  
Dovilė ŠAKALIENĖ, Lithuania

#### **Substitutes**

Alfred HEER, Switzerland  
Simonas GENTVILAS, Lithuania

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

Annette GROTH, Germany\*

#### **Substitute**

Henk OVERBEEK, Netherlands

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

Giuseppe GALATI, Italy

**Venice Commission**

Richard BARRETT, Ireland, Member

Simona GRANATA-MENGHINI, Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission

**Secretariat**

Bogdan TORCĂTORIU, Administrator, 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

\* members of the pre-election delegation

#### **Appendix 4**

#### **List of members of the ad hoc committee to observe the referendum on the constitutional amendments in Turkey (16 April 2017)**

**Chairperson:** Cezar Florin PREDA (Romania, EPP/CD)

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

Elena CENTEMERO, Italy  
Nicole DURANTON, France  
Rafael HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan  
Nermina KAPETANOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Duarte MARQUES, Portugal  
Cezar Florin PREDA, Romania  
Stefaan VERCAMER, Belgium  
Emanuelis ZINGERIS, Lithuania

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

Josette DURRIEU, France  
Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland  
Zviad KVATCHANTIRADZE, Georgia  
Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro  
Florian KRONBICHLER, Italy  
Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria  
Mechthild RAWERT, Germany  
Alev KORUN, Austria

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

Nigel EVANS, United Kingdom  
Jaak MADISON, Estonia  
Arkadiusz MULARCZYK, Poland

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

Simonas GENTVILAS, Lithuania  
Anne KALMARI, Finland  
Andrea RIGONI, Italy  
Jordi XUCLÀ, Spain

#### **Substitute**

Alina ZOTEA, Republic of Moldova

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

Nikolaj VILLUMSEN, Denmark

#### **Substitute**

Andrej HUNKO, Germany

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

Marianne MIKKO, Estonia  
Ingebjørg GODSKESEN, Norway

#### **Secretariat**

Bogdan TORCĂTORIU, Administrator, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division  
Anne GODFREY, Assistant, Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division