



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2017) 05
2 May 2017

To the Members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 28 April 2017

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 28 April 2017 in Strasbourg, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Second part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 24-28 April):**
 - o expressed no confidence in the President; decided not to authorise the President to undertake any official visits, attend any meetings or make any public statements on behalf of the Assembly; and decided to make public this decision (see Appendix 1);
 - o took note of the Declaration unanimously adopted by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs on 27 April 2017 on *Principle of confidence in members and their duty of accountability when exercising their elective offices in the Parliamentary Assembly*;
 - o approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly to texts adopted by the Assembly and to the current affairs debate, as set out in Appendix 2;
 - o took note of a letter dated 26 April 2017 by Mr Talip Küçükcan (Turkey, EC), Chairperson of the Turkish delegation to the Assembly, regarding Resolution 2156 (2017) on *Functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey*;
- **Allegations of corruption: composition of the independent external investigation body:**
 - o took note of the candidatures for membership in the independent external investigation body submitted by Bureau members as well as a letter by Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, on the need to ensure gender balance in the composition of this body;
 - o decided to close the list of candidatures;
 - o and confirmed the instruction to the Secretary General of the Assembly to hold private talks with the proposed candidates and come up with a proposal on the composition of the investigation body, with a view to submitting it to the Bureau for approval at its meeting in Prague on 29 May 2017 (subject to ratification by the Assembly in its Progress report);
- **Standing Committee meeting (Prague, 30 May 2017):** took note of the draft agenda;
- **Third part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 26-30 June):** drew up the preliminary draft agenda;

- **Election observation:**
 - i. *Armenia: parliamentary elections (2 April 2017):* took note of the statement of the observation mission;
 - ii. *Serbia: presidential election (2 April 2017):* took note of the statement of the observation mission;
 - iii. *Turkey: referendum on the constitutional amendments (16 April 2017):* took note of the statement of the observation mission as well as a press release by Mr Talip Küçükcan (Turkey, EC), Chairperson of the Turkish delegation to the Assembly;
 - iv. *Albania: parliamentary elections (18 June 2017):* took note of the invitation letter to observe these elections, approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee, and appointed Mr Paolo Corsini (Italy, SOC) as its Chairperson (Appendix 3);
- **References and transmissions to committees:** considered and approved the references and transmissions as presented in Appendix 4, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the addendum to the Progress report;
- **2017 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 8-10 November):** took note of the concept paper and decided to constitute an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum, composed of members to be proposed by the Assembly committees before the Bureau meeting of 30 June 2017;
- **Communication by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** took note of the written communication by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - i. *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:* took note of a letter by the Chairperson of the Committee providing information on the preparation of the report on *Detention of Palestinian minors in Israeli prisons*;
- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):** considered and approved the list of candidates in respect of Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Norway and Serbia, to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers;
- **Meeting elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the ad hoc Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) to meet in Vienna on 9 June 2017;
- **Meetings of the Bureau and the Standing Committee in Prague (29 and 30 May 2017):** took note of the practical information;
- **Other business:**
 - i. *Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (28 April – 25 June 2017):* appointed Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) as Rapporteur;
 - ii. *Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:* took note of the extension of the deadline for the submission of nominations to 30 June 2017;
- **Dates and places of next meetings:**

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;
Monday, 9 October 2017, Strasbourg at 8 am;
Friday, 13 October 2017, Strasbourg, 8.30 am.

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

Press release

PACE Bureau declares 'no confidence' in Pedro Agramunt as President

28 April 2017 - The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting in Strasbourg today, resolved that it has no confidence in Pedro Agramunt as President of the Assembly.

It further resolved that Mr Agramunt is not authorised to undertake any official visits, attend any meetings or make any public statements on behalf of the Assembly in his capacity as President.

"The President chose not to attend the Bureau today, and has not presented a letter of resignation. As a result, and in the context of the current Rules of Procedure under which the President cannot be compelled to resign, the Bureau felt it necessary to take these steps," said Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC), Senior Vice-President of the Assembly, after chairing the Bureau meeting.

"The standards and principles of the Parliamentary Assembly are more important than any individual member, and the integrity of our Assembly must be upheld," he added.

* The Bureau is responsible for the co-ordination of the activities of the Assembly and of its committees. It assists the President in his or her functions and guides the Assembly's external relations. It takes decisions on the organisation of part-sessions and plenary sittings. It consists of the President, the twenty Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, the heads of the political groups and the chairpersons of the Assembly's general committees.

Appendix 2

Follow-up to the current affairs debate and to texts adopted during the second part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 24-28 April)

Current affairs debate on *European values under threat: addressing rising xenophobia, antisemitism and islamophobia in Europe*: decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination for consultation on the follow-up to be given.

Resolution 2162 (2017) on *Alarming developments in Hungary: draft NGO law restricting civil society and possible closure of the European Central University* (Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy)

11. *In conclusion, the Assembly believes that recent developments in Hungary merit its close attention as well as the mobilisation of Council of Europe expertise to help the Hungarian authorities ensure compliance with relevant Council of Europe and international standards in the field of freedom of association and expression. The Assembly therefore:*

11.1. requests the opinion of the Venice Commission on the compatibility with Council of Europe standards of the Hungarian draft law on the Transparency of Organisations Receiving Foreign Funding, as well as of the Act of 4 April 2017 amending the National Higher Education Act;

Follow-up: to request the Opinion of the Venice Commission as requested in paragraph 11.1.

12. *The Assembly resolves to continue to follow closely developments in Hungary.*

Follow-up: to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on Hungary in the context of the periodic review by the Monitoring Committee.

Appendix 3

List of members of the ad hoc committee to observe the parliamentary elections in Albania (18 June 2017)

Chairperson: Paolo CORSINI (Italy, SOC)

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

David BAKRADZE, Georgia
Elena CENTEMERO, Italy
Sylvie GOY-CHAVENT, France
Kęstutis MASIULIS, Lithuania
Yves POZZO di BORGIO, France
Ionuț-Marian STROE, Romania
Attila TILKI, Hungary

Socialist Group (SOC)

Geneviève GOSSELIN-FLEURY, France
Stefan SCHENNACH, Austria
Predrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro
Jan ŠKOBERNE, Slovenia
Paolo CORSINI, Italy*
Marianne MIKKO, Estonia
Florian KRONBICHLER, Italy
Luis Alberto ORELLANA, Italy
Idália SERRÃO, Portugal
Miroslav NENUTIL, Czech Republic

Substitutes

Joseph DEBONO-GRECH, Malta
Muslum MAMMADOV, Azerbaijan

European Conservatives Group (EC)

Ingebjørg GODSKESEN, Norway*
Erkan KANDEMIR, Turkey
Serhii KIRAL, Ukraine
Jaroslaw OBREMSKI, Poland

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)

Reina BRUIJN-WEZEMAN, Netherlands
Eerik Niiles KROSS, Estonia*
Andrea RIGONI, Italy
Mart van de VEN, Netherlands

Substitute

Fernando MAURA, Spain

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)

Marco NICOLINI, San Marino*

Substitute

Miren Edurne GORROTXATEGUI, Spain

Co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee (ex officio)

Joseph O'REILLY, Ireland
Andrej HUNKO, Germany

Venice Commission

...

* members of the pre-election delegation

Appendix 4

References and transmissions to committees

A. References and transmissions to committees

[Doc. 14261](#), motion for a resolution, Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*;

[Doc. 14262](#), motion for a resolution, Russian racial discrimination of Crimean Tatars in Crimea: consultation of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *on possible follow-up*;

[Doc. 14263](#), motion for a resolution, Consequences on international law of the decision from the American Congress to allow victims' families of 9/11 to sue Saudi Arabia: *no further action*;

[Doc. 14264](#), motion for a resolution, The state of emergency and its limitations: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

[Doc. 14278](#), motion for a resolution, The protection and promotion of Regional and Minority Languages in Europe: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report* and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*;

Bureau Decision, Recognition of the principle of accountability and its implementation: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*.

B. Reply after consultation

[Doc. 14190](#), motion for a resolution, Organ transplant tourism to China: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report with the title "Organ transplant tourism"*.