



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2017) 08

3 July 2017

To the Members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 30 June 2017

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 30 June 2017 in Strasbourg with Mr Antonio Gutiérrez (Spain, SOC), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Statement by the Secretary General of the Assembly:** heard a statement as set out in Appendix 1;
- **Third part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 26-30 June):**
 - i. approved the follow-up proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly to texts adopted by the Assembly, as set out in Appendix 2;
 - ii. took note of a letter by Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD) concerning the *Assessment of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe* carried out by GRECO, and decided to transmit this letter to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on *Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members* (Rapporteur: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC);
- **Formation of a new political group: Free Democrats Group (FDG):** following a vote, decided to postpone the decision whether to acknowledge the formation of the group to a later meeting;
- **Fourth part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 9-13 October):** drew up the preliminary draft agenda;
- **Election observation:**
 - i. *Albania: parliamentary elections (25 June 2017):* took note of the statement of the electoral mission;
 - ii. *Kyrgyzstan: presidential election (15 October 2017):* subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe this election; set up an ad hoc committee to this end, composed of 20 members (EPP/CD: 7, SOC: 6, EC: 3, ALDE: 3, UEL: 1 - in accordance with the D'Hondt system) and the Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the *Evaluation of the Partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*, Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE); approved the list of members as set out in Appendix 3 and appointed Ms Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE) as its Chairperson;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** considered and approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 4, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the addendum to the Progress report;

- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the information provided by the Secretary General of the Assembly and decided that, should the motion of dismissal of the President of the Assembly be tabled, the meeting of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize Selection Panel to be held in Prague on 28-29 August 2017 be chaired by Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC), in his capacity as most senior Vice-President of the Assembly;
- **2017 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 8-10 November):** approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum as set out in Appendix 5;
- **Budgetary matters - Analysis of the use made by the Assembly's political groups of their allocations for 2016:** approved the communication submitted by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs;
- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):** approved the lists of candidates in respect of Croatia, Georgia, Netherlands, Slovenia and Sweden, to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers;
- **Composition of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee):** on the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD Group, nominated Mr Jacques Legendre (France); on the basis of proposals by the SOC Group, nominated Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria) and Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson (Sweden) (*nominations subject to ratification by the Assembly through the addendum to the Progress report*);
- **Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities:** took note of the written report of Ms Tamar Chugoshvili concerning her participation in the Spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Tbilisi, from 26 to 29 May 2017 and appointed Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) to participate in the 26th Annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to be held in Minsk, Belarus, on 5-9 July 2017;
- **Cooperation with the European Parliament and other European Union institutions:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised:
 - o the Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Member States of the Council of Europe of the Monitoring Committee to meet in Athens in September 2017 (*date to be confirmed*);
 - o the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights to meet in Riga, on 20-21 October 2017;
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee (30 June – 8 October 2017):** appointed Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom, EC) as Rapporteur;
- **Dates and places of next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:

Monday, 4 September 2017, Paris, at 9 am;
Monday, 9 October 2017, Strasbourg at 8 am;
Friday, 13 October 2017, Strasbourg at 8.30 am;
Thursday, 23 November 2017, Copenhagen, afternoon;
Friday, 15 December 2017, Paris at 9 am.

Sonia Sirtori, Angela Garabagiu

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Parliamentary 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

Statement by Mr Wojciech Sawicki, Secretary General of the Assembly at the meeting of the Bureau on 30 June 2017

Mr President,

I feel obliged to make a statement to the Bureau in view of yesterday's message delivered by Mr Agramunt. As you know he attended the meeting of the Presidential Committee yesterday, and at the end asked those who were still present in the room to have a family photo taken.

This photograph has been put by him on his Twitter account together with an unacceptable - in my view - political comment.

I strongly protest – also on behalf of my two colleagues from the Secretariat who were present– against using our image to support a political message. I find this unacceptable. Once I found this twitter message I reacted immediately to Mr Agramunt – however without any response from him.

I would also like to inform you that the Secretariat of the Assembly is following the situation of Mr Agramunt with anxiety and unease. We are worried about the future of this Assembly and its role within the Council of Europe. At all cost we would like to avoid a possible divide between parliamentarians and staff, and I very much regret that, unfortunately, in his recent statements Mr Agramunt has been trying to introduce this divide.

The success of this Assembly also depends on the common harmonious work and good cooperation of members and staff. We, the staff, really care about this.

In this difficult time for the Assembly, my role – as the Secretary General of the Assembly - is to provide you with the best possible assistance and to help you to proceed in line with the Statute of the Council of Europe and the Rules of the Assembly, while avoiding at the same time any partisan approach. This is also the duty of all my colleagues and I am very grateful to them for their work and for all that they are doing for the Assembly.

Appendix 2

Follow-up to texts adopted during the third part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 26-30 June)

On 30 June 2017, the Bureau approved the following proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly:

- **Resolution 2170 (2017) on *Promoting integrity in governance to tackle political corruption*:**

“10. For its part, the Assembly resolves to:

- 10.1. pay special attention to the revision and effective implementation of its own Code of Conduct;
- 10.2. fully support the independent external investigation body to look into allegations of corruption within the Assembly;
- 10.3. strengthen its own Anti-corruption Platform with the aim of promoting integrity campaigns in national parliaments;
- 10.4. provide a sound regulation for lobbying activities, including through the setting up of a Parliamentary Assembly transparency register, following the example of the European Parliament.”

Follow-up: decided to submit the matters listed in paragraph 10 to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on the *Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members* (Rapporteur: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC).

- **Resolution 2178 (2017) on *The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights*:**

“12. In view of the urgent need to speed up implementation of the Court's judgments, the Assembly resolves to remain seized of this matter and to continue to give it priority”.

Follow-up: decided to seize the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for the preparation of a *report* on this issue.

Appendix 3

List of members of the ad hoc committee to observe the presidential election in Kyrgyzstan (15 October 2017)

Chairperson: Ms Doris FIALA (Switzerland, ALDE)

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

Boriana ÅBERG, Sweden
Elena CENTEMERO, Italy
Corneliu Mugurel COZMANCIUC, Romania
Zsolt CSENGER-ZALAN, Hungary
Nicole DURANTON, France
Giuseppe GALATI, Italy
Alina Ștefania GORGHIU, Romania
Sylvie GOY-CHAVENT, France
Aleksander POCIEJ, Poland
Ion POPA, Romania
Cezar Florin PREDA, Romania
María Concepción de SANTA ANA, Spain
Adão SILVA, Portugal
Miltiadis VARVITSIOTIS, Greece
Stefaan VERCAMER, Belgium

Socialist Group

Marie-Françoise PEROL-DUMONT, France
Attila MESTERHAZY, Hungary
Antonio GUTTIÉREZ, Spain
George FOULKES, United Kingdom
Paolo CORSINI, Italy
Idalia SERRAO, Portugal

Substitutes

José CEPEDA, Spain
Gordan MARAS, Croatia
Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland
Maryvonne BLONDIN, France
Luis Alberto ORELLANA, Italy
Pedrag SEKULIĆ, Montenegro
Florian KRONBICHLER, Italy

European Conservatives Group (EC)

Talip KÜÇÜKCAN, Turkey
Hermine NAGHDALYAN, Armenia
Tom PACKALÉN, Finland

Substitutes

Suat ÖNAL, Turkey
Arkadiusz MULARCZYK, Poland
Lord Richard BALFE, United Kingdom
Mark PRITCHARD, United Kingdom
Ingebjorg GODSKESEN, Norway

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)

Doris FIALA, Switzerland
Carles JORDANA, Andorra
Simonas GENTVILAS, Lithuania

Substitute

Fernando MAURA, Spain

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)

Henk OVERBEEK, Netherlands

Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the *Evaluation of the Partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*

Alain DESTEXHE, Belgium

* The order of members and substitutes of the EPP/CD group will be specified later

Appendix 4

A. References and transmissions to committees

[Doc. 14307](#), motion for a resolution, Human rights impacts of the "external dimension" of European Union asylum and migration policy: out of sight, out of mind?: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;

[Doc. 14308](#), motion for a resolution, Endocrine disrupting chemicals in water: transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*;

[Doc. 14309](#), motion for a resolution, Ukraine is urged to fight corruption and bring criminals to justice: reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "The honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine"*;

[Doc. 14310](#), motion for a resolution, Development aid: a tool for preventing migration crises: 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. 14311](#), motion for a resolution, Enhancing co-operation between Council of Europe member States to meet new challenges in the fight against organised crime and money laundering: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Fighting organised crime by facilitating the confiscation of illegal assets" (Ref. 4254 of 25 November 2016)*;

[Doc. 14312](#), motion for a resolution, The importance of public service broadcasting in the context of fake news, agitation and propaganda: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*;

[Doc. 14313](#), motion for a resolution, Alleged extreme discrimination and crimes against homosexuals in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation): reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;

[Doc. 14314](#), motion for a resolution, The legal and practical requirements for extra-territorial processing of asylum claims: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*;

[Doc. 14315](#), motion for a resolution, Extradition requests and the abuse of process: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

[Doc. 14316](#), motion for a recommendation, The Council of Europe in the European political architecture: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Call for a Council of Europe Summit to defend and promote democratic security in Europe" (Ref. 4178 of 25 January 2016)*;

[Doc. 14317](#), motion for a resolution, Establishment of an European Union mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*;

[Doc. 14330](#), motion for a resolution, Making sign language one of Europe's official languages: consultation of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *on possible follow-up*;

[Doc. 14334](#), motion for a resolution, Protecting the rights of people with psychosocial disabilities with regard to involuntary measures in psychiatry: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*;

[Doc. 14336](#), motion for a resolution, Refugees and migrants as an easy target for trafficking and exploitation: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;

Bureau decision, The activities of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB): reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*;

Bureau decision, The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*.

B. Reply after consultation

[Doc. 14043](#), motion for a resolution, Safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, Greece: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities"*.

C. Modification of references

Bureau decision, Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan (Ref. 4182 of 29 January 2016): reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*;

Bureau decision, The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2016-2017 (Ref. 4177 of 25 January 2016 – validity: 25 January 2018): reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*;

[Doc. 14276](#), motion for a resolution, The humanitarian situation of refugees in the countries neighbouring Syria (Ref. 4293 of 30 May 2017): reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;

[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): reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for opinion*.

D. Extension of references

[Doc. 13424](#), motion for a resolution, The need for a citizenship income (Ref. 4034 of 7 April 2015 – validity: 30 June 2017 (extended on 23 January 2017): extension until 31 December 2017;

[Doc. 13630](#), motion for a resolution, Parental authority conflicts (Ref. 4095 of 26 January 2015 – validity: 30 June 2017): extension until 31 October 2017;

[Doc. 13653](#), motion for a resolution, The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan (Ref. 4106 of 30 January 2015 – validity: 30 June 2017 (extended on 24 November 2016)): extension until 31 December 2017.

Appendix 5

List of members of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the 2017 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 8-10 November)

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, NR)
 Mr Deniz Baykal (Turkey, SOC)
 Mr Bogdan Klich (Poland, EPP/CD)
 Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC)
 Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE)

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Ms Eka Beselia (Georgia, SOC)
 Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE)
 Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC)
 Mr Raphaël Comte (Switzerland, ALDE)
 Mr Sergio Divina (Italy, NR)
 Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC)
 Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD)

Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD)
 Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC)

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Mr Ertuğrul Kürkçü (Turkey, UEL)

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

Mr Volodymyr Arieu (Ukraine, EPP/CD)
 Mr Roland Rino Büchel (Switzerland, ALDE)
 Mr José Cepeda (Spain, SOC)
 Mr Paolo Corsini (Italy, SOC)
 Ms Adele Gambaro (Italy, NR)
 Mr Francesco Giro (Italy, EPP/CD)
 Mr Rafael Huseynov (Azerbaijan, ALDE)
 Ms Judith Pallarés (Andorra, ALDE)

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Mr Goran Beus Richembergh (Croatia, ADLE)
 Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD)
 Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ADLE)
 Ms Alice-Mary Higgins (Ireland, SOC)
 Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD)
 Mr Florian Kronbichler (Italy, SOC)
 Ms Cristina-Mădălina Prună (Romania, NR)
 Mr Sasa Magazinovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC)
 Ms Dovilė Šakalienė (Lithuania, ALDE)
 Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC)
 Ms Maria Edera Spadoni (Italy, NR)
 Mr Damien Thiéry (Belgium, ALDE)
 Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC)