



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2017) 13 rev
18 December 2017

To the Members of the Assembly

Synopsis (revised) of the meeting held in Paris on 15 December 2017

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 15 December 2017 in Paris with Ms Stella Kyriakides, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Standing Committee (Copenhagen, 24 November 2017):** as a follow-up to the current affairs debate on *Democracy hacked. How to respond?*, decided to ask the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to prepare a report on *Democracy hacked? How to respond?*;
- **First part-session of 2018 (Strasbourg, 22-26 January):**
 - i. *Draft agenda:* drew up the draft agenda;
 - ii. *Requests for debates under urgent procedure:* took note of:
 - the request tabled by Mr Talip Küçükcan (Turkey, EC) and 20 members of the Assembly for the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *Rising anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and xenophobia in Europe: a threat to European values*;
 - the request tabled by Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, on behalf of the Committee, for the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *The Israeli-Palestinian peace process: the role of the Council of Europe*;
 - the request tabled by Mr Talip Küçükcan (Turkey, EC) and 20 members of the Assembly for the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on *Energising the Israeli-Palestinian peace process: contribution of the Council of Europe*;
- **Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights:** took note of and declassified the report drawn up by the Sub-Committee on Human Rights on the hearing of the candidates to the post of Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, to be transmitted to the members of the Assembly through an addendum to the Progress report;
- **Proposal to set up an *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau on *The role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly*:** decided to set up, under Article 44.4.c. of the Rules of Procedure, an *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau on *The role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly* and approved its terms of reference, composition and timetable as set out in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress Report;
- **Procedure for considering motions for resolutions and recommendations and its possible improvement:** held an exchange of views;

- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the proposals contained in the document as set out in Appendix 2, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;
- **Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the 2018 financial year:**
 - took note of the memorandum by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
 - took note of the decision by the Turkish Government to withdraw from the status of major contributor to the budget of the Council of Europe as from 1 January 2018;
 - asked the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to prepare a report modifying the Assembly's Rules of Procedure with a view to removing Turkish from the list of working languages of the Assembly;
 - asked the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly to enquire with the Turkish Parliament whether it might wish to return to the previous practice of covering the cost of Turkish interpretation in the Assembly;
- **Parliamentary co-operation activities: work plan 2018:** took note of the information provided in the document;
- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliament 2018 (Ankara, 13-14 September 2018):**
 - took note of the information provided by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
 - took note of the two themes of the Conference agreed by the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, namely:
 - theme 1: *Tackling terrorism: the role and responsibility of national parliaments*
 - theme 2: *Encountering hate speech, racism and xenophobia: challenges for national parliaments;*
 - and decided to ask the Turkish Parliament to provide a list of the already invited Parliaments in time for the next Bureau meeting;
- **2018 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the calendar of the 2018 edition of the Prize;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised:
 - i. the *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy* to meet in Athens on 22 May 2018;
 - ii. the *Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons* to meet in Amman (Jordan) in March 2018 for two days (exact dates to be confirmed and subject to the availability of funds);
 - iii. the *sub-committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons* and the *Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies* to meet in Rabat (Morocco) in February 2018 (exact dates to be confirmed);
 - iv. the *Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development* to meet in Lisbon on 17-18 September 2018;
- **Apportionment of the allocation to political groups for 2018:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly and approved the proposal for the apportionment of the allocation;
- **Cooperation with the European Parliament and other EU institutions:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Other business:**
 - was informed of the meeting between the Presidential Committee and the representatives of the Russian Federation Parliament which took place on 14 December 2017;
 - took note of the request by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) to facilitate his fact-finding visit to the Russian Federation in the context of the preparation of his report on *The need to shed light on the background of the murder of Boris Nemtsov*;

- **Date and place of the next meetings:**

Monday 22 January 2018, Strasbourg, 8 am;
Friday 26 January 2018, Strasbourg, 8.30 am;
Thursday 15 March 2018, Paris, at 3 pm.

Sonia Sirtori, Angela Garabagiu

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
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

Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on

The role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly

The Bureau of the Assembly decides, subject to ratification by the Assembly through its Progress Report, under Article 44.4.c. of the Rules of Procedure to set up an *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau on ***The role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly*** with the following terms of reference, composition and timetable.

1. Terms of reference

To make proposals to the Bureau of the Assembly on the implementation of paragraphs 16-18 of Resolution 2186 (2017) on *Call for a Council of Europe summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe*. The *ad hoc* committee will notably have a twofold task:

- to reflect on, and if possible prepare, proposals aimed at harmonising the rules governing participation and representation of member States in both statutory organs, while fully respecting the autonomy of the two bodies;
- to prepare proposals as regards the role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly as a statutory organ of the Council of Europe and a pan-European forum for interparliamentary dialogue which aims at having an impact in all Council of Europe member States.

The *ad hoc* committee will carry out its work in the two official languages (English and French). Its report, once presented to the Bureau, will provide useful input into the report under preparation by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the *Identity, role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly as a statutory organ of the Council of Europe and a pan-European forum for interparliamentary dialogue*.

2. Composition

Since Resolution 2186 (2017) states that “For this process to be credible and fruitful, the whole Assembly and every single member State should do their utmost to ensure that all member States of the Organisation will be fully represented in the process on both the parliamentary and intergovernmental sides in strict compliance with their respective obligations and resolutions” (paragraph 17), the *ad hoc* committee will be composed of:

- The President of the Assembly;
- The Chairpersons of Political Groups or, in their absence, a member representing the group concerned;
- The Chairpersons of national delegations or, in their absence, a member of the delegation duly designated;
- The Chairpersons of the general committees listed in Rule 44.1. of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly or, in their absence, one of the vice-chairpersons of the committee concerned;
- The Rapporteur of the Committee of Political Affairs and Democracy on *Identity, role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly as a statutory organ of the Council of Europe and a pan-European forum for interparliamentary dialogue* as well as the Rapporteur for *opinion* of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs on this subject.

3. Timetable

The *ad hoc* committee should present its report to the Bureau, at the latest, at its December 2018 meeting.

Appendix 2

A. References and transmissions to committees

[Doc. 14419](#), motion for a resolution, Anonymous donation of gametes: balancing the rights of parents, donors and offspring: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

[Doc. 14427](#), motion for a resolution, Stop hate speech and acts of hatred in sport: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

[Doc. 14429](#), motion for a resolution, Violence and discrimination against religious minorities in refugee camps across Europe: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

[Doc. 14441](#), motion for a resolution, Investment migration: trends, advantages, standards: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for consultation*

Bureau decision, Democracy hacked? How to respond?: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

Bureau decision, The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2018-2019: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

Bureau decision, To modify the Assembly's Rules of Procedure with a view to removing Turkish from the list of working languages of the Assembly: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

B. Reply after consultation

[Doc. 14364](#), motion for a resolution, The implications of Brexit for migration: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

C. Extension of references

[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): *extension until 30 June 2018*

Bureau decision, Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic (Ref. 4045 of 17 April 2014 – validity: 31 December 2017): *extension until 31 December 2019*

Bureau decision, How can inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe be prevented? (Ref. 4205 of 22 April 2016 – validity: 22 April 2018): *extension until 30 September 2018*

Bureau decision, The crash of Polish Air Force Tu-154 transporting the Polish delegation on 10 April 2010 on the Russian Federation's territory (Ref. 4103 of 26 January 2015 – validity: 31 January 2018): *extension until 31 July 2018*