



**AS/Bur/CB (2021) 01**  
22 January 2021

## To the Members of the Assembly

### Synopsis of the meeting held by videoconference on 22 January 2021

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 22 January 2021 by videoconference with Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communication:** took note of the communication by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- **First part-session of 2021 (Strasbourg, 25-28 January):**

confirmed its decision of the 9 December 2020 to hold this part-session in a hybrid manner;

i. *Requests for debate under urgent procedure and current affairs debate:*

Requests for debate under urgent procedure: took note:

- of the request tabled by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, to hold a debate under urgent procedure on “*The arrest and detention of Alexei Navalny in January 2021*” and decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;
- of the request tabled Ms Jufereva Skuratovski (Estonia, ALDE), and 20 other members of the Assembly, to hold a debate under urgent procedure on “*The worsening situation in Belarus*” and decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;
- of the request tabled by the European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance, to hold a debate under urgent procedure on “*Freedom of Expression*” (*Article 10 of the ECHR*) *under threat by “Big Tech” Companies*”, decided to transform this request into a current affairs debate - with the agreement of Mr Liddell Grainger (United Kingdom), Chairperson of the EC/DA Group, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate, and appointed Mr Bob De Brabandere (Belgium, EC/DA) as the first speaker of this debate;

Requests for current affairs debate: took note:

- of the request tabled by Mr Petr Tolstoy (Russian Federation, NR) on behalf of the Russian delegation, to hold a current affairs debate on “*Prohibition of the Russian and other national minorities languages in Ukraine*” and decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;
- of the request tabled by Mr Ruben Rubinyan (Armenia, EPP/CD), on behalf of the Armenian delegation, to hold a current affairs debate on “*Unjustifiable delay in repatriation of the Armenia prisoners of war (Po W) and other captives by Azerbaijani authorities as violations of the European International Human Rights Standards*” and decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;
- of the request tabled by Ms Maria Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), on behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, to hold a current affairs debate on “*The actual human rights situation in temporary occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol during COVID-19 pandemics*” and decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate;
- of the request tabled by both the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group and by the Socialists, Democrats and Green Group, to hold a current affairs debate on “*The arrest and detention of Alexei Navalny in January 2021*”, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and appointed Mr Jacques Maire as the first speaker of this debate;

ii. *Draft agenda*: updated the draft agenda of the part-session;

iii. *Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Greece and Switzerland*: took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on the election of judges following interviews with candidates for the post of judges in respect of Greece and Switzerland;

- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (31 January 2020 – 21 January 2021)** (Rapporteur: Mr Ian Liddell Grainger (United Kingdom, EC/DA)): approved the Progress report;

- **Election observations:**

i. Georgia: parliamentary elections (31 October 2020): approved the report of the ad hoc committee and took note of the cancellation of the post-electoral mission;

ii. Kyrgyzstan: presidential election (10 January 2021): took note of the cancellation of the post-electoral mission;

iii. Bulgaria: parliamentary elections (4 April 2021): took note of the list of members of the ad hoc committee and appointed Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE) as its Chairperson (appendix 1);

iv. Albania: parliamentary elections (25 April 2021, tbc): subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-7 ; EPP/CD-6 ; EC/DA-3 ; ALDE-3 ; UEL-1) as well as the two co-Rapporteurs of the monitoring committee and to conduct a pre-electoral mission;

v. Palestine: parliamentary elections (22 May 2021): subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 20 members (SOC-7 ; EPP/CD-6 ; EC/DA-3 ; ALDE-3 ; UEL-1) and to conduct a pre-electoral mission;

vi. Schedule of elections for 2021: took note of the calendar;

- **References and transmissions to committees:** considered and approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 2, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;
- **Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2021:** took note of the list of candidates for Vice-Presidents of the Assembly (appendix 3);
- **Resolution 1376 (2004) relating to Cyprus:** took note of the letters from the two Turkish Cypriot political parties informing the President of the Assembly of the names of the "elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community" entitled to sit in the Assembly in 2021, namely Mr Armağan Candan and Mr Özdemir Berova, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee, the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs and the Committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:** on the basis of proposals by the political groups, nominated members of these three committees and decided to submit them to the Assembly for ratification (Commissions (2021) 01 Addendum 1);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:**  
  
Monday, 1 February 2021, 9.30 am to 1 pm, by videoconference  
Thursday, 18 March 2021, Berlin (tbc)

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Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly  
Directors 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

21 January / Janvier 2021

### AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE OBSERVATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN BULGARIA

4 April / avril 2021

### COMMISSION AD HOC POUR L'OBSERVATION DES ELECTIONS LEGISLATIVES EN BULGARIE

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#### List of members / Liste des membres

**Chairperson / Président.e** : Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse

#### **Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts (SOC)**

Mr / M. Christian PETRY, Germany / Allemagne  
Lord Leslie GRIFFITHS, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni  
Mr / M. Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Switzerland / Suisse \*\* (P)  
Mr / M. Roberto RAMPI, Italy / Italie \* \*\*  
Mr / M. Pedro CEGONHO, Portugal  
Mr / M. Yunus EMRE, Turkey / Turquie  
Mr / M. André VALLINI France \*\*

#### **Substitutes / Suppléants**

Ms / Mme Tabea RÖSSNER, Germany / Allemagne \*\*

#### **Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD) / Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/DC)**

Mr / M. Frank HEINRICH, Germany / Allemagne  
Mr / M. Reinhold LOPATKA, Austria / Autriche \*\*  
Ms / Mme María Valentina MARTÍNEZ FERRO, Spain / Espagne  
Mr / M. Joe O'REILLY, Ireland / Irlande \*\*  
Mr / M. Jacek PROTASIEWICZ, Poland / Pologne  
Mr / M. Aleksander STOKKEBØ, Norway / Norvège  
Ms / Mme Laurence TRASTOUR-ISNART, France

#### **Substitutes / Suppléants \***

#### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) / Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe (ADLE)**

Mr / M. Fabien GOUTTEFARDE, France  
Mr / M. Alfred HEER, Switzerland / Suisse \*\* (P)  
Ms / Mme Yevheniia KRAVCHUK, Ukraine

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\* One of the EPP/CD members above will be a substitute

**Substitutes / Suppléants**

Mr / M. Damien COTTIER, Switzerland / Suisse  
Mr / M. Christoph HOFFMANN, Germany / Allemagne  
Mr / M. Hovhannes IGITYAN, Armenia / Arménie  
Ms / Mme Liliana TANGUY, France  
Mr / M. Arminas LYDEKA, Lithuania / Lituanie (subject to approval of Lithuanian delegation)  
Mr / M. Bertrand BOUYX, France  
Ms / Mme Alexandra LOUIS, France \*\*  
Ms / Mme Nicole DURANTON, France \*\*  
Mr / M. Jacques LE NAY, France \*\*  
Mr / M. Frédéric PETIT, France  
Mr / M. Jean-Pierre GRIN, Switzerland / Suisse  
Mr / M. Georges-Luis BOUCHEZ, Belgium / Belgique

**European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance (EC/DA) / Groupe des conservateurs européens et Alliance démocratique (CE/AD)**

Mr / M. Alberto RIBOLLA, Italy / Italie \*\* (P)  
Mr / M. Ulrich OEHME, Germany / Allemagne \*\*  
Mr / M. Mikayel MELKUMYAN, Armenia / Arménie

**Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne (GUE)**

Ms / Mme Gökay AKBULUT, Germany / Allemagne

**Substitutes / Suppléants**

Mr / M. Andrej HUNKO, Germany / Allemagne\*\*

**Co-rapporteurs AS/MON (ex officio)**

Mr / M. Aleksander POČIEJ, Poland / Pologne  
Mr / M. Frank SCHWABE, Germany / Allemagne \*

**Venice Commission / Commission de Venise**

**Secretariat / Secrétariat**

\* election declaration missing

\*\* has participated in at least 2 missions

(P) pre-electoral mission

## Appendix 2 – References and transmissions to committees

### A. References to committees

- [Doc. 15191](#), Motion for a resolution, *Securing safe medical supply chains*: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*
- [Doc. 15193](#), Motion for a resolution, *Finding solutions for marital captivity*: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*
- [Doc. 15194](#), Motion for a resolution, *Health and social protection of undocumented workers*: reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*
- [Doc. 15195](#), Motion for a resolution, *Respect for the rule of law and fight against corruption within the Council of Europe*: reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*
- [Doc. 15206](#), Motion for a resolution, *Polarisation of the political environment as a hidden danger of the displacement of the population*: reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for information*
- [Doc. 15207](#), Motion for a resolution, *Gradual cultural erasure and other threats to culture*: reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for information*

### B. Modification of a reference

- [Doc. 14878](#), Motion for a resolution, Addressing the issue of Daesh foreign fighters and their families returning from Syria and other countries to the member States of the Council of Europe (reference 4452 of 24 June 2019): reference the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development for opinion

### C. Extension of references

- The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Hungary ([reference 4446 of 12 April 2019, valid until 12 October 2021](#)) [extension until 12 April 2022](#)
- The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Malta ([reference 4447 of 12 April 2019, valid until 12 October 2021](#)) [extension until 12 April 2022](#)
- The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Romania ([reference 4448 of 12 April 2019, valid until 12 October 2021](#)) [extension until 12 April 2022](#)

## Appendix 3 - Candidatures Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2021

<b>GROUPS / GROUPE</b>	<b>COUNTRY / PAYS</b>	<b>CANDIDATURES</b>
GROUP I / GROUPE I	France	<b>Ms Nicole TRISSE</b>
	Germany / Allemagne	<b>Mr Andreas NICK</b>
	Italy / Italie	<b>Vacant seat / siège vacant</b>
	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie	<b>Mr Petr TOLSTOI</b>
	Turkey / Turquie	<b>Mr Ahmet YILDIZ</b>
	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	<b>Mr John HOWELL</b>
GROUP II / GROUPE II	Poland / Pologne	<b>Mr Arkadiusz MULARCZYK</b>
	Ukraine	<b>Mr Oleksandr MEREZHKO</b>
GROUP III / GROUPE III	Czech Republic / République tchèque	<b>Ms Miroslava NĚMCOVÁ</b>
	Denmark / Danemark	<b>Mr Lars Aslan RASMUSSEN</b>
	Finland / Finlande	<b>Mr Kimmo KILJUNEN</b>
	Georgia / Géorgie	<b>Mr Irakli KOBAKHIDZE</b>
	Greece / Grèce	<b>Ms Theodora BAKOYANNIS</b>
	Hungary / Hongrie	<b>Mr Zsolt NÉMETH</b>
	Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova	<b>Vacant seat / siège vacant</b>
	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	<b>Vacant seat / siège vacant</b>
GROUP IV / GROUPE IV	Lithuanie / Lituanie	<b>Ms Laima Liucija ANDRIKIENĖ</b>
	Luxembourg	<b>Mr Gusty GRAAS</b>
	Malta / Malte	<b>Mr Emanuel MALLIA</b>
	Monaco	<b>Mr José BADIA</b>