



SECRETARIAT

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To the members of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 8, 9 and 10 April 2014

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Strasbourg, with Mr Thierry Mariani (France, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

- on Tuesday, 8 April 2014 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **17th meeting of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children and joint meeting with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development on the theme “Sexual violence against refugee children”**: heard a statement by Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, concerning the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Gert Westerveen, UNHCR representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg and Ms Sara Abbas, Head of Office for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), France;
- on Wednesday, 9 April 2014 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **Hearing on “the need to eradicate Statelessness” jointly organised by UNHCR, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**: held a hearing on the themes below with interventions by the following experts:
 - I. Focus on stateless children
 - “**Overview and challenges**”: Ms Diane Goodman, Deputy Director, UNHCR Bureau for Europe, Geneva
 - “**Country feedback**”: Ms Luigia Contini, Senior Official of the Citizenship Department, Italian Ministry of Interior
 - II. Good practices – suggested solutions
 - “**Preventing childhood statelessness in Europe: some issues, gaps and good practices**”: Ms Laura van Waas, Steering Committee member of the European Network on Statelessness (ENS), Manager of the Statelessness Programme, Tilburg Law School, Netherlands
 - “**Conclusions on good practices and challenges**”: Mr Mark Manly, Head of UNHCR’s Statelessness Unit, Division for International Protection, Geneva;
- on Thursday, 10 April 2014 at 8.30 a.m., as regards:
 - **The “left-to-die boat”: actions and reactions** (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): considered a preliminary draft report;

- **Situation of refugees and IDPs from Crimea:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Olha Herasymiuk, former member of the Assembly and representative of the Civic Guard NGO and Ms Natalia Sevidova, member of the Bridge EU-Ukraine NGO;
- **Implication of the referendum in Switzerland:** heard a statement by Ms Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE);
- **Immigration detention of children** (Rapporteur: Ms Tinatin Bockuchava, Georgia, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her participation in a meeting on “a global strategy to end child immigration detention”, organised by the International Detention Coalition in Geneva on 14 March 2014, and authorized the Rapporteur to cancel her visit to Sweden and consider a new destination for her fact-finding mission;
- **on Thursday, 10 April 2014 at 2 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **Integration of migrants: is Europe failing?** (Rapporteur: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC): held an exchange of views with Ms Fabienne Jault-Seseke, Professor of Private Law, Versailles Saint-Quentin University, France, and considered a preliminary draft report;
 - **Democratic participation for migrant diaspora** (Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE): considered an introductory memorandum, heard a statement by the rapporteur on his participation in a High-Level Conference on “Diaspora and Development” organised by the Crans Montana Forum in Brussels on 20 February 2014 and authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Serbia;
 - **The arrival of large numbers of irregular migrants to Italian coastal areas as a result of tensions in the Southern Mediterranean countries** (Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **Chinese migration to Europe: challenges and opportunities** (Rapporteur: Mr Thierry Mariani, France, EPP/CD): authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Italy;
 - **Mass arrival of irregular migrants: The situation in Spain:** heard a statement by Ms Delia Blanco (Spain, SOC);
 - **Reception and Detention of irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Greece:** decided to send a letter to Ms Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs;
 - **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following change:
 - Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit
 - Mr Aleksandrs Sakovskis (Latvia, SOC) to become a titular member;
 - **Forced migration: a new challenge** (Rapporteur: Mr Philippe Bies, France, SOC): heard from the Rapporteur a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Next meetings:**
 - **Paris**, 3 June 2014
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 3rd part-session 2014 (23-27 June)
 - **Paris**, 9 September 2014
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 4th part-session 2014 (29 September-3 October)
 - **Bucharest**, end of November 2014 (to be confirmed and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau)

Agnès Nollinger, Olga Kostenko, Kelly Sipp

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, 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
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