



SECRETARIAT

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5 October 2015

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 28, 29, 30 September and 1 October 2015

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

- on Monday, 28 September 2015 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **Draft minutes of the meeting of 9 September 2015:** revised and approved them as amended;
 - **Countries of transit: meeting new migration and asylum challenges** (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): considered and approved an addendum to the report; considered and adopted 4 amendments to the draft resolution presented by the Rapporteur to be tabled on behalf of the Committee; authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to the Western Balkans to gather information on the progress in the implementation of the resolution subject to its adoption by the Assembly;
 - **Violence against migrants** (Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE): heard a statement by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Germany on 2 and 3 July 2015 and on his future fact-finding visit to Greece (14-16 October 2015);
 - **Constitution of an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee:** was informed of an invitation from the Municipality of Kos (Greece) supported by the Parliament of Greece to visit the reception facilities for migrants on the Island of Kos; and agreed to constitute an *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to visit Kos in order to gather first-hand information on the situation on the island in the light of mass arrivals of refugees and migrants;
- on Tuesday, 29 September 2015 at 8.30 a.m., as regards:
 - **Countries of transit: meeting new migration and asylum challenges** (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): took position on 16 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and 1 amendment tabled to the draft recommendation;
 - **After Dublin – the urgent need for a real European asylum system** (Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC): took position on 29 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Organised crime and migrants** (Rapporteur: Mr Irakli Chikovani, Georgia, ALDE): heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered and approved a preliminary draft report; held a hearing with the participation of Mr Jari Vilén, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe, Ms Silke Albert, Senior expert on Trafficking in Persons, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr Alvaro Rodriguez Gaya, Project Manager, Facilitated illegal migration area, Europol and Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director, Directorate of Information Society and Action against Crime;

- **on Tuesday, 29 September 2015 at 2.00 p.m.**, with Mr René Rouquet (France, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Closing the protection gap of unaccompanied children in Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr René Rouquet, France, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur, considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to modify the title of the report as follows: “Harmonising the protection of unaccompanied minors in Europe”;
 - ***Appeal for a solidary and humane solution of the refugee crisis in Europe***: heard a statement by Mr Simon Matthijssen, representative of the European Ombudsman Institute (EOI) to the Council of Europe;
 - ***The Mediterranean Sea: a front door to irregular migration*** (Rapporteur: Ms Daphné Dumery, Belgium, NR): heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered and approved a preliminary draft report;
 - ***Lampedusa Beach***: watched a performance on a refugee survivor of a shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea organised in co-operation with the Italian Cultural Institute, in the presence of Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the PACE, Ms Laura Boldrini, President of the Italian Parliament, Mr Mars Di Bartolomeo, President of the Parliament of Luxembourg, and other invited personalities;
- **on Wednesday, 30 September 2015 at 2.00 p.m.**, with Ms Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to visit reception facilities for migrants on the island of Kos (Greece)***: heard a statement by Mr Aristotelis Pavlidis, former PACE member and current member of the Municipal Council of Kos, and approved the terms of reference of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee subject to its validation by the Bureau;
 - ***The humanitarian concerns with regard to captured people during the conflict in Ukraine*** (Rapporteur: Ms Nellija Kleinberga, Latvia, ALDE): heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered an introductory memorandum; agreed to organise a hearing in January 2016 and authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Ukraine and the Russian Federation; heard a statement by Ms Oleksandra Romantsova, representative of the NGO “Coordinator of mobile group for monitoring human rights violations in Donbass”;
 - ***Follow-up to the report on “Missing persons during the conflict in Ukraine”*** (Rapporteur: Mr Jim Sheridan, United Kingdom, SOC): heard a statement by Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EC) on the follow-up to Resolution 2067 (2015);
 - ***Promoting alternatives to the immigration detention of children***: heard a statement by Ms Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE), General Rapporteur on “Ending immigration detention of children” and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Kerry L. Neal, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Ms Lana Petö Kujundžić, Judge for minors, President of department for juveniles, District Court of Zagreb, Croatia and Ms Elvire Delwiche, Coordinator of Caritas International, Belgium;
 - ***The humanitarian crisis in Gaza*** (Rapporteur: Ms Eva-Lena Jansson, Sweden, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her future fact-finding visit to Israel and Palestinian territories including the Gaza Strip (26-28 October 2015, to be confirmed) and held an exchange of views;
- **on Thursday, 1 October 2015 at 8.30 a.m.**, with Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to visit reception facilities for migrants on the island of Kos (Greece)***: approved the composition of the *Ad hoc* Sub-Committee (see appendix);
 - ***Recommendation 2059 (2014) on “Resettlement of refugees: promoting greater solidarity”***: heard a statement by the rapporteur on the reply from the Committee of Ministers and agreed to write a letter to the Committee of Ministers seeking further clarification on follow-up action;
 - ***International Migrants’ Day (18 December 2015)***: held a training session for parliamentarians on how to visit places of detention with Ms Barbara Bernath, Expert, Association for the Prevention of

Torture (APT) with a view to members visiting a detention centre in their countries on 18 December 2015;

- **International Conference on “A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe”**: held an exchange of views on the preparation of the international conference to be held in Paris on 16 December 2015 (date and venue to be confirmed);
- **Representation of the Committee at various events**: appointed Mr Florin Costin Pâslaru (Romania, SOC) to participate in the Regional Seminar on “What Rights and Realities at 18?” on 2-3 November 2015 in Budapest, subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly;
- **Appointment of a rapporteur for a report**:
A stronger European response to the Syrian refugee crisis: appointed Ms Annette Groth (Germany, UEL) and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
The impact of European populations dynamics on migration policies: following Ms Kristin Ørmen Johnsen’s (Norway, EPP/CD) appointment on 9 September 2015, heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Free debate**: heard a statement by Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EC) on the visit of a group of French parliamentarians to Crimea on 23-24 July 2015 attended by the Chairperson of the Committee, including a request to put this issue on the draft agenda of the next Committee meeting;
- **Other business**: in the context of the follow-up to Resolution 2028 (2015) on “The humanitarian situation of Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons” (Rapporteur: Mr Jim Sheridan, SOC, UK), authorised the Chairperson to write to the Ukrainian PACE delegation requesting information on the progress made by the Ukrainian authorities in the fulfilment of recommendations contained in the resolution;
- **Next meetings**:
 - **Paris**, 15 December 2015
 - **Paris**, 16 December 2015, International Conference on “A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe” (date and venue to be confirmed)
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 1st part-session 2016 (25-29 January)

The **Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to visit reception facilities for migrants on the island of Kos (Greece)**, meeting in Strasbourg on 1 October 2015, with first **Mr Cezar Florin Preda** (Romania, EPP/CD), and then **Ms Doris Fiala** (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of a Chairperson**: elected **Ms Doris Fiala** (Switzerland, ALDE) by acclamation;
- **Visit of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to Kos (Greece)**: held an exchange of views on the preparation of the meeting to be held in Kos, organised in co-operation with the authorities of Kos with the support of the delegation of Greece to the PACE, to be held on 23-24 October 2015;
- **Next meeting**: Kos (Greece), 23-24 October 2015.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Agnès Nollinger, Olga Kostenko, David Milner

cc: 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

Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to visit reception facilities for migrants on the island of Kos (Greece)
Sous-commission ad hoc pour visiter des structures d'accueil pour migrants sur l'île de Kos (Grèce)

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Présidente

Alternates / Remplaçants

Ms Doris FIALA
Switzerland / Suisse ALDE / ADLE

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Members / Membres

Alternates / Remplaçants

Mr Christopher CHOPE
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni EC / CE

Ms Daphné DUMERY
Belgium / Belgique NR/NI

Ms Annette GROTH
Germany / Allemagne UEL / GUE

Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS
Estonia / Estonie ALDE / ADLE

Ms Athina KYRIAKIDOU
Cyprus / Chypre SOC

Mr Cezar Florin PREDA
Romania / Roumanie EPP/CD / PPE/DC

Mr Andrea RIGONI
Italy / Italie ALDE/ADLE