



SECRETARIAT

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17 December 2015

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 15 and 16 December 2015

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Paris, with first Mr Thierry Mariani (France, EPP/CD), then Mr Eric Voruz (Switzerland, SOC) and Mr Irakli Chikovani (Georgia, ALDE) in the Chair,

- on Tuesday, 15 December 2015, as regards:
  - **Declaration on the International Migrants' Day (18 December 2015):** considered and approved a declaration to mark International Migrants Day;

Mr Eric Voruz (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The Mediterranean Sea: a front door to irregular migration** (Rapporteur: Ms Daphné Dumery, Belgium, NR): considered and approved a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution as amended;
- **Organised crime and migrants** (Rapporteur: Mr Irakli Chikovani, Georgia, ALDE): considered and approved a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution as amended;
- **Forced migration: a new challenge** (Rapporteur: Mr Philippe Bies, France, SOC): considered and approved a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution as amended;
- **Violence against migrants** (Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE): heard a statement by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Greece on 14-16 October 2015 and considered a preliminary draft report;
- **The need to eradicate statelessness of children** (Rapporteur: Mr Manlio Di Stefano, Italy, NR): heard a statement by the rapporteur, held an exchange of views with Ms Railya Abulkhanova, former stateless person and considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 2073 (2015) on "Countries of transit: meeting new migration and asylum challenges"** (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): took note of an information note on the visit of the Rapporteur to the Western Balkans ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Serbia and Slovenia) on 10-13 November 2015;
- **Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to visit reception facilities for migrants on the island of Kos (Greece):** heard a statement by Ms Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE), Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee and watched a video on Immigration Detention of children produced in the framework of the parliamentary campaign against immigration detention of children; was informed of Ms Fiala's proposal to organize a meeting in Switzerland as further follow-up to the Sub-committee's visit and agreed to come back to this question at one of its forthcoming meetings;

- **Follow-up to Resolution 2028 (2015) on “The humanitarian situation of Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons”** (Rapporteur: Mr Jim Sheridan, United Kingdom, SOC): decided to resume discussions at the January meeting on the basis of information communicated by the Ukrainian delegation and decided to address a letter to the Russian Federation requesting information on follow-up to the Resolution;
- **Appointment**: appointed Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) rapporteur on “Human rights of refugees and migrants – the situation in the Western Balkans”, subject to a declaration of absence of conflict of interest at the next meeting;
- **Motion for a resolution on “How to encourage the migration of international students across Europe” referred to the Committee for consultation on the follow up** : decided to request the Bureau to be seized with the preparation of a report on the subject;
- **Representation of the Committee at various events**: heard a statement by Mr Manlio Di Stefano (Italy, NR) on a seminar on “Statelessness of children” organised by the European Network on Statelessness (ENS) and UNHCR in Strasbourg on 21 September 2015;
- **Priorities of the Committee for 2016**: considered the priorities of the Committee for 2016;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees**: approved the following change:
  - Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit**
    - Ms Geneviève Gosselin-Fleury (France, SOC) to become an alternate member
- **Free debate**: held an exchange of views on the situation of Palestinian children in detention in Israel;
- **Other business**: following an invitation by the PACE Delegation of Georgia decided to hold a meeting in Tbilisi on 21-22 March 2016, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau;
- **on Wednesday, 16 December 2015,**

**Mr Thierry Mariani (France, EPP/CD) and then Mr Irakli Chikovani (Georgia, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:**

- **Conference on “A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe”**: (organised in co-operation with the Parliamentary Project Support Division of the Parliamentary Assembly): following an opening statement by Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, held panel discussions on “Concerns and possible short/medium term solutions”, moderated by Mr Jacques Attali, with presentations by members of the parliaments of Jordan, Greece, Serbia and Sweden, and on “Sustainable solutions and co-operation with countries of origin and first asylum”, moderated by Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill, with presentations by members of the parliaments of Turkey, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Denmark;
- **Next meetings**:
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 1st part-session 2016 (25-29 January)
  - **Tbilisi**, 21-22 March 2016 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau)
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 2nd part-session 2016 (18-22 April)
  - **Paris**, 3 June 2016 (to be confirmed)
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 3rd part-session 2016 (20-24 June)
  - **Paris**, 14 September 2016 (to be confirmed)
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 4th part-session 2016 (10-14 October)
  - **Paris**, 7 December 2016 (to be confirmed)

Agnieszka Nachilo, Agnès Nollinger, Penelope Denu, 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