



THE SECRETARIAT

AS/Mig (2021) CB 06

26 May 2021

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

Synopsis

of the Committee meeting held by videoconference on Tuesday 25 May 2021 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

and of the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings held by videoconference on Tuesday 25 May 2021 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting by videoconference on Tuesday 25 May 2021 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, with Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Role of parliaments in implementing the United Nations global compacts for migrants and refugees** (*Rapporteur: Mr Nicos Tornaritis, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): took note that no amendments had been tabled;
- **Humanitarian action for refugees and migrants in countries in North Africa and the Middle East** (*Rapporteur: Lord Alexander Dundee, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): took position on eight amendments tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development;
- **Voluntary relocation of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in need of humanitarian protection** (*Rapporteur: Lord Alexander Dundee, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Alternative care for unaccompanied and separated migrant children** (*Rapporteur: Ms Mariia Mezentseva, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Humanitarian consequences of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paul Gavan, Ireland, UEL*): heard information from the Rapporteur about his visit to Armenia from 19 to 22 May 2021;
- **70th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention: what would Europe be like without the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees?** (*Rapporteur: Lord Leslie Griffiths, United Kingdom, SOC*): considered a draft outline and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Andreas Wissner, Representative, UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg. Agreed to change the title of the report to "70th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention: the Council of Europe and the international protection of refugees".
- **Work programme and priorities**

- ✓ **Ad hoc Sub-Committee to carry out a fact-finding visit to Lesbos (Greece):** heard a report back by the Chairperson on the visit from 10 to 12 May 2021 and thanked the Greek authorities for the organisation of this visit; decided to propose to the Bureau a current affairs debate on “The need for an effective solidarity mechanism between European countries to relieve migratory pressure on front line countries” and proposed to invite as an external introductory speaker, Mr Panagiotis Mitarachi, Minister of Migration and Asylum of Greece;
- ✓ **Gender and migration:** was informed by Ms Petra Stienen (Netherlands, ALDE) about the joint webinar with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (AS/Ega) to take place on 3 June 2021 from 10 am to 12 pm;
- ✓ **International Conference on Global challenges and threats in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic: Terrorism and Violent Extremism; Working Session on Democracies facing the Covid-19 pandemic (15 April 2021):** heard a report back by the Chairperson about the Conference;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following change in the composition of the Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings: Mr Ahmed Büyükgümüs to become full member;
- **Other business**
 - ✓ **The “Walk with Amal” Initiative:** held an exchange of views with Mr David Lan, Producer, and Mr Amir Nizar Zuabi, Artistic Director, and proposed to welcome this initiative at the Parliamentary Assembly on Thursday 30 September 2021 in Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session;
 - ✓ **UK Parliament web-conference of 18 June 2021 on relocations and sea rescue of migrants, celebrating World Refugee Day at the 70th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention:** was informed by Lord Alexander Dundee (United Kingdom, EC/DA) on this web-conference and was invited to participate;
 - ✓ **Nominations for the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the call for nominations and the deadline to submit nominations by 30 June 2021;
 - ✓ **Future Forum organised by the EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) on 22-24 June 2021:** took note that Mr Paulo Pisco (Portugal, SOC) would address this on-line conference on 22 June 2021;
 - ✓ **Humanitarian consequences of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:** agreed that the Chairperson of the Committee would make a statement;
 - ✓ **Pushbacks on land and sea: illegal measures of migration management (Rapporteur: Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, Switzerland, SOC):** authorised the Rapporteur to visit Ceuta, Spain and, subject to agreement of the Bureau, Morocco;
- **Next meetings**

Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session 2021 (21-25 June 2021) (mode Hybrid) – Tuesday 22 June from 8:00 am to 9:00 am (tbc) and Wednesday 23 June from 2:00pm to 3:30pm (tbc)

 - **Strasbourg**, 7 September 2021 (mode tbc)
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 4th part-session 2021 (27 September - 1 October 2021) (mode tbc)
 - **Strasbourg**, 24 November 2021 (mode tbc)

The **Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings** (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons) meeting by videoconference in Strasbourg on 25 May 2021 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm, with Lord Alexander Dundee (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair; as regards:

- **Future activities of the Sub-Committee:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - ✓ Ms María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Chairperson of the Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament, Member of the European Parliament;

- ✓ Mr Valiant Richey, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Vienna;
 - ✓ Mr Ilias Chatzis, Head of the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UN Office of Drugs and Crime, Vienna;
 - ✓ Mr Sabelo Mbokazi, Head of Labour, Employment and Migration, Department of Social Affairs, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
 - ✓ Ms Katarina Lughofer, Programme Manager for Asylum and Migration, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna.
- **Next meeting:** decided to leave it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Mark Neville, Rüdiger Dossow, Olga Kostenko, Angela Garabagiu

cc: *Secretary General of the 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
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Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe