



## Political Affairs Committee

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
*Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

**AS/PoI/CB (2011) 04**

1 June 2011

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Paris on 30 and 31 May 2011, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **The situation in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE*): considered and approved a report and considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with a delegation from the Parliament of Morocco, considered and approved a report and considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Co-operation between the Council of Europe and emerging democracies in the Arab world** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on a draft report and asked the Rapporteur to redraft his text in the light of this exchange of views ;
- **Living together in 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe: follow-up to the Eminent persons report** (*Rapporteur: Mr Toshev, Bulgaria, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by, and held an exchange of views with, Mr Martin Hirsch member of the Group of Eminent Persons, President of the French Civic Service Agency, considered and approved a report and considered, amended and adopted a draft recommendation;
- **Council of Europe and the Eastern Partnership of the European Union** (*Rapporteur : Mr Lipiński, Poland, EPP-CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Thierry Béchet, Acting Head of Division for Eastern Partnership, regional co-operation and OSCE, EU European External Action Service, and Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of Political Advice and Co-operation, Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs of the Council of Europe;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Ms Hurskainen, Finland, SOC*):
  - heard a statement by the outgoing Rapporteur on the basis of an information note, decided to declassify it and thanked the Rapporteur for her work;
  - decided to continue to follow closely the situation in Belarus on the basis of the Committee's permanent mandate and to take into account, in this framework, the motion on the *Need for an international inquiry into the crackdown against the Belarusian opposition in December 2010* referred to the Committee;
  - decided to hold, at its next meeting, an exchange of views on the situation in Belarus with representatives of civil society and of the democratic opposition;
  - decided to request the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) to provide an assessment of the compatibility with universal human rights standards of Article 193-1 of the Criminal Code vis-à-vis the rights of non-registered associations in Belarus;
  - issued a press statement condemning the ongoing prosecution of political opponents, human rights defenders and independent media in Belarus;

- **121<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee of Ministers (10-11 May 2011, Istanbul):** heard a statement by Ambassador Mykola Tochytskyi, Permanent Representative of Ukraine and Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies, on the priorities of the Ukrainian chairmanship;

- **Future work:**

a) - appointed:

Mr Miloš Aligrudić, (Serbia, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for opinion on *The situation of Roma in Europe: movement and migration*, and heard from him a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;

- called for candidatures for the following reports, to be appointed at its next meeting:

. *Violence against religious communities*

. *Situation in the Middle East*

. *Situation in Belarus*

. *Democracy and Human Rights in the foreign policy of Council of Europe member states: search for a joint approach*

. *The portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns (for opinion, AS/Mig Rapporteur: Mrs Dumery, Belgium, NR)*

b) approved the following changes in the composition of sub-committees:

**Sub-Committee on the Middle East**

Mr Díaz Tejera (Spain), member

**Sub-Committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation**

Mr Díaz Tejera (Spain), member

c) Preparation of 6 September 2011 meeting in Caserta (Italy):

was informed by the Chairman that the deadline for registration and hotel reservation is 10 July 2011.

- **Next meetings**

. 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2011 (20-24 June) – Strasbourg

. 5-6 September 2011, Caserta, Italy

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Despina Chatzivassiliou, João Ary, Pavel Chevtchenko

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly  
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Observers to the Assembly  
Secretary General of the Congress  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Directors General  
Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisation Developments and Reform  
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