



Political Affairs Committee

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

AS/Pol/CB (2011) 05

28 June 2011

The **Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Strasbourg from 20 to 23 June 2011, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) and Mr Franken (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Morocco** (Rapporteur: Mr Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
- **The situation in Tunisia** (Rapporteur: Ms Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution and draft recommendation;
- **Living together in 21st century Europe: follow-up to the Eminent persons report** (Rapporteur: Mr Toshev, Bulgaria, EPP/CD): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft recommendation;
- **Expansion of democracy by lowering the voting age to 16** (Rapporteur: Mr Aligrudić, Serbia, EPP/CD): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution;
- **Co-operation between the Council of Europe and emerging democracies in the Arab world** (Rapporteur: Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD): considered and approved a revised draft report and considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended; decided that an addendum to the report will be prepared in time for the October part-session;
- **Situation in Belarus:**
 - held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Dimitri Makarov, Co-ordinator of the Committee on International Control over the situation with human rights in Belarus, Mr Aleh Hulak, Chairperson of the Belarusian Helsinki Committee and Mr Stanislav Bogdankevich, Honorary Chairperson of the United Civic Party;
 - appointed Mr Andres Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) as rapporteur on the situation in Belarus;
 - authorised the rapporteur to participate in the Troika meeting on Belarus, which will be held during the OSCE-PA annual session (Belgrade, 7 July 2011);
 - decided to ask the Bureau to authorise the rapporteur to conduct a fact finding visit to Minsk in the forthcoming months, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
- **Council of Europe relations with the European Union:** held a joint hearing with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee of Migration, Refugees and Population, with the participation of Ms Tonje Meinich, Chair of the Informal Working Group on the Accession of the European Union to the European Convention of Human Rights (CDDH-UE) and Mr Morten Kjaerum, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA); considered an introductory memorandum on the "Impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the Council of Europe" prepared by the Rapporteur, Ms Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE), and asked her to prepare a draft report for approval at the next meeting of the Committee with a view to an Assembly debate during the October part-session;

- **Future work**

appointed:

Mr Konstantinos Vrettos (Greece, SOC) as Rapporteur on *Situation in Middle East*;

Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC) as Rapporteur on *Democracy and Human Rights in the foreign policy of Council of Europe member states: search for a joint approach*;

Mr Luca Volontè (Italy, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Violence against religious communities*;

Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, (Suisse, SOC) as Rapporteur on *Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict*;

Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis (Greece, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for Opinion on *The portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns* (Report to be prepared by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population) ;

and heard from them a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;

- **Next meetings**

- 5-6 September 2011, Caserta, Italy
- 4th part-session (3-7 October 2011), Strasbourg
- 15 November 2011, Paris
- 14 December 2011, Paris.

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 21 June 2011, with Mr Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

- **Future work**

discussed its future work with the delegations of the Knesset and of the Palestinian Legislative Council;

- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Palestinian National Council**

in the absence of the Rapporteur, postponed discussions on the request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Palestinian National Council;

- **Next meeting**

- 4th Assembly part-session (3-7 October 2011), Strasbourg
- 14 November 2011, Paris.

Despina Chatzivassiliou, João Ary, Pavel Chevtchenko, Silvia Arzilli, Plamen Nikolov

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