



SECRETARIAT

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## To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 29-30 May 2012

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Paris on 29-30 May 2012, with Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The crisis of democracy and the role of the State in today's Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution, as amended;
- **Political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Anne Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE*): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution, as amended;
- **The rise of populist extremism in Europe and its dangers for democracy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Nursuna Memecan, Turkey, ALDE*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft report presented by the Rapporteur; took note of the intention of the Rapporteur to review it in the light of the discussion and agreed to return to the matter at one of its forthcoming meetings;
- **The situation in Kosovo<sup>1</sup>** (*Rapporteur: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*):
  - . held a hearing with the participation of representatives of the political forces elected to the Kosovo Assembly, namely Mr Zenum Pajaziti, Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK); Ms Vjosa Osmani, Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK); and Ms Jasmina Živković, Independent Liberal Party (SLS), as well as civil society representatives, namely Ms Edona Musa-Mustafa, member of the board of the Association of professional journalists of Kosovo, and Mr Adrian Zeqiri, Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI);
  - . heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to his proposal to organise a hearing with representatives of the municipalities in North Kosovo, at one of the Committee's forthcoming meetings;
- **Activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2011-2012** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Marie Bockel, France, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with Mr Yves Leterme, Deputy Secretary General of the OECD, and considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Biennial debate on the Activities of the European Bank for Research and Development (EBRD)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tuur Elzinga, Netherlands, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; approved his proposed course of action and decided to constitute an ad hoc Sub-Committee in order to hold a meeting at the EBRD Headquarters in London on 5 September 2012 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);

<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- **Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Preparation of the meeting in Helsinki, 10-11 September 2012**: took note of the draft programme;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**:
  - . The political transition in Egypt: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD),
  - . The young generation sacrificed: social, economic and political consequences of the financial crisis (for opinion): Mr Roman Jakič (Slovenia, ALDE),
  - . Keeping political and criminal responsibility separate (for opinion): Ms Christine Muttonen (Austria, SOC);
- **World Forum for Democracy (5-11 October 2012)**: nominated the following members to take part in the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum:
  - . Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD
  - . Mr Deniz Baykal, Turkey, SOC
  - . Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC
  - . Mr Roman Jakič, Slovenia, ALDE
  - . Mr João Bosco Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP/CD
  - . Ms Marietta, de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD
  - . Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE
  - . Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CDand reiterated its call for candidates, as there are still seats available;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: held an exchange of views on a range of current political developments and issued a statement on Syria;
- **Follow-up of adopted texts, stemming from the Committee**: took note of the compilation prepared by the Secretariat on replies given by the Committee of Ministers to recommendations stemming from the Committee, adopted by the Assembly in 2010; took note of the ongoing follow-up on the situation in Syria, on the basis of Resolution 1878 (2012), adopted in April 2012 (*Rapporteur: Mr Pietro Marcenaro, Italy, SOC*);
- **Next meetings in 2012**:
  - . 25-29 June (3rd part-session), Strasbourg,
  - . 10-11 September, Helsinki (Finland),
  - . 1-5 October (4th part-session), Strasbourg,
  - . 14-15 November, Paris (to be confirmed),
  - . 13-14 December, Paris (to be confirmed).

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**The Sub-Committee on the Middle East** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Paris on 30 May 2012, with Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Situation in the Middle East** (*Rapporteur: Mr Konstantinos Vrettos, Greece, SOC*): held an exchange of views with the delegations from the Knesset and the Palestinian National Council and heard a presentation by Ambassador Nassif Hitti, Director of the Mission of the League of Arab States in Paris, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: during the June Assembly part-session in Strasbourg.

J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko, S. Arzilli

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General, Directors 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