



SECRETARIAT

AS/PoI (2012) CB 05

4 July 2012

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 25 to 28 June 2012

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg with Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC) and Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

- **on Monday 25 June 2012 at 2 pm**, as regards:
 - **PACE-EP Joint Informal Body**: heard a statement by the Chairperson on the meeting of the Joint Informal Body PACE-EP held on 19 June 2012, in Paris;
 - **Debate under urgent procedure *Crisis of democracy in Egypt***: took note of the request under urgent procedure and appointed Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur;
 - **The young generation sacrificed: social, economic and political implications of the financial crisis** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Roman Jakič, Slovenia, ALDE*): considered and approved an opinion;
 - **The portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Greece, EPP/CD*): considered and approved an opinion, as amended, and agreed that, in the absence of the Rapporteur, the opinion would be presented to the Assembly by its Chairperson;
 - **Work programme:**
 - *The idea of Big Society, development of subsidiarity and common good*: considered that the motion for a resolution on *The idea of Big society, development of subsidiarity and common good*, which was referred to it for report (and to AS/SOC for opinion) did not fall within the terms of reference of the Committee and, taking also into account the objectives of the recent reform of the Assembly, decided not to appoint a Rapporteur for this motion and inform the Bureau of the Assembly accordingly;
 - heard a statement by Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) on her participation - as the institutional representative of the Assembly - in the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission), which took place in Venice on 14 June 2012;
 - agreed to request the extension of the reference for *Measures to improve the democratic character of elections in the Council of Europe member States* (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD) until 31 December 2012;

- **on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 8.30 am**, as regards:
 - **Debate under urgent procedure *Crisis of democracy in Egypt*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*): decided to change the title of the report as follows: *Crisis of the transition to democracy in Egypt*; considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution, as amended;
 - **Roma migrants in Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Milos Aligrudić, Serbia, EPP/CD*) : considered and approved an opinion;

- **on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 2 pm**, as regards:
 - **The crisis of democracy and the role of the State in today's Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Open discussion on current issues**: heard a statement by its Chairperson on the situation in Syria and adopted a declaration on *2012 Parliamentary elections in Belarus: a healthy democracy needs dissent*, upon a proposal by Mr Andreas Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on the *Situation in Belarus*;

- **on Thursday 28 June 2012 at 8.30 am**, as regards:
 - **Political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Anne Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE*): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **World Forum for Democracy (5-11 October 2012)**: heard a communication by Mr Jean-Louis Laurens, Senior Co-ordinator of the Forum, on the objectives of the Forum and on the state of play of the preparation of the latter, and approved additional candidates for the ad-hoc Committee of the Bureau, namely:
 - Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, Chairperson ALDE)
 - Mr Sabir Hajiyevev (Azerbaijan, SOC)
 - Mr Tadeusz Iwinski (Poland, SOC)
 - Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, Chairperson UEL)
 - Mr Gennaro Malgieri (Italy, EPP/CD)
 - Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
 - Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE)
 - Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EDG)
 - Mr Robert Walter (United Kingdom, Chairperson EDG)
 - **Exchange of views with Ambassador Laurent Dominati, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT)**: held an exchange of views on the neighbourhood policy of the Council of Europe and other issues of common interest;

- **on Thursday 28 June 2012, at 2 pm**, as regards,
 - **Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2010-2012** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tuur Elzinga, Netherlands, UEL*): approved the composition of the ad hoc Sub-Committee on the Relations with the EBRD (see appendix) and considered the preliminary draft programme of the meeting to be held in London, on 5 September 2012 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);
 - **Activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2011-2012** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Marie Bockel, France, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to up date it and transmit it to the delegations of the national parliaments of OECD member States not belonging to the Council of Europe, asking them to send comments, by 15 August 2012, to be included in the draft report which will be examined in Helsinki, on 10-11 September 2012;

- **Measures to improve the democratic character of elections in Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to change the title of the report as follows: *For more democratic elections*;
- **New parliamentary effort to create a stability pact in the Caucasus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Latchezar Toshev, Bulgaria, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Georgia, and agreed to change the title of the report as follows: *New parliamentary effort to create a stability pact in the South Caucasus*;
- **Authorisations by the Committee**
 - Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC), to attend the Conference on *The European electoral heritage: ten years of Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters*, organised by the Venice Commission in co-operation with the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Assembly of Albania, which will take place in Tirana, Albania, on 2-3 July 2012;
 - Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE), to take part in the working visit to Tunisia organised by the Venice Commission in July 2012 (to be confirmed), instead of her fact-finding visit to Tunisia authorised earlier which had been cancelled;
 - Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC), to pay a visit to the EU Institutions in Brussels during the 2nd half of the year 2012, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *Democracy and human rights in the foreign policy of Council of Europe member states: search for a joint approach*;
 - Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD), to pay a visit to Egypt, during the 2nd half of the year 2012, in the framework of the preparation of his report on the *Political transition in Egypt* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);
 - Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL), to pay a visit the Palestinian Territories and Israel, in the 2nd half of the year 2012, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy with the Palestinian National Council* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);
 - Mr Latchezar Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP/CD), to pay visits to Armenia and Azerbaijan, in the 2nd half of the year 2012, in the framework of his preparation of the report on *New parliamentary effort to create a stability pact in the South Caucasus*;
 - Mr Andreas Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD), to attend the meeting of the Belarus Troïka (PACE-EP-OSCE PA), in Berlin, early September 2012 (to be confirmed);
- **Next meetings in 2012**
 - 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 external relations (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 27 June 2012, with Mr Leonid Slutsky (Russian Federation, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **China**: heard a statement by Mr Guobin Zhang, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Strasbourg, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: decided to hold its next meeting during the October part-session.

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 27 June 2012, with Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Chairperson:** elected Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) Chairperson by acclamation;
- **Situation in the Middle East:** held an exchange of views with the delegations from the Knesset and the Palestinian National Council;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its chairperson to convene its next meeting.

D. Chatzivassiliou, 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

Appendix

**Ad hoc Sub-Committee on Relations with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

***Sous-commission ad hoc sur les relations avec la Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le
développement (BERD) de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie***

30 seats / 30 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

28/06/2012

Chairperson / Président(e)

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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)

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Members / Membres

1.	Mr ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš (EDG)	Serbia / Serbie
2.	M. BOCKEL Jean-Marie (PPE/DC)	France
3.	M. BODEN Fernand (PPE/DC)	Luxembourg
4.	Mme BRASSEUR Anne (ADLE)	Luxembourg
5.	Mr BRAUN Márton (EPP/CD)	Hungary / Hongrie
6.	Mr ÇAVUŞOĞLU Mevlüt (EDG)	Turkey / Turquie
7.	Mme DURRIEU Josette	France
8.	Mr ELZINGA Tuur (UEL)	Netherlands / Pays Bas
9.	Mme FIALA Doris (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse
10.	Mr GROSS Andreas (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse
11.	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
12.	Mr HARUTYUNYAN Davit (EDG)	Armenia / Arménie
13.	Mr IWĨŃSKI Tadeusz (SOC)	Poland / Pologne
14.	Mr JAKIĆ Roman (ALDE)	Slovenia / Slovénie
15.	Mr KNYSHOV Alexey (EDG)	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie
16.	Mr MAYER Edgar (EPP/CD)	Austria / Autriche
17.	M. MORIAU Patrick (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique
18.	Mr POCHINOK Alexander	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie
19.	Ms de POURBAIX-LUNDIN M. (EPP/CD)	Sweden / Suède
20.	Mr RIGONI Andrea (ALDE)	Italy / Italie
21.	Ms TOMC Romana (EPP/CD)	Slovenia / Slovénie
22.	Mr WALTER Robert (EDG)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
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Ex-officio :

Mr MARCENARO Pietro (Italy, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie