



SECRETARIAT

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21 March 2013

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis

of the meeting which took place in Rabat, Morocco
on 13 March 2013, from 9 am to 5.30 pm
and on 14 March 2013, from 9 am to 1 pm

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Rabat, on 13 and 14 March 2013, with Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC) and Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair:

on Wednesday 13 March 2013

– **heard welcome addresses by:**

- Mr Karim Ghellab, President of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Morocco;
- Mr Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, President of the Chamber of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco;

– **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy with the Parliament of Morocco:**

- heard a statement by the Rapporteur, Mr Luca Volontè (Italy, EPP/CD);
- held a hearing on the implementation of reforms in Morocco and the co-operation with the Council of Europe and held an exchange of views on current international issues with: Mr Youssef El Amrani, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco; Mr Cherki Draiss, Deputy Minister for the Interior; Mr Abdelmajid Oumija, Secretary General and Mr Mohamed Benabdenabaoui, Director of Penal Affairs, Ministry of Justice; Mr Nouredine Mouaddib, member of the National Council for Human Rights of Morocco (CNDH); as well as with representatives of the Council of Europe: Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission; Mr Zoltan Taubner, Director of External Relations of the Council of Europe; and Ms Pilar Morales, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes of the Council of Europe;

– **Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict:** took note of the absence of the Rapporteur, Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC), and held a hearing organised by the Moroccan delegation, with the participation of: Mr Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, Saharan parliamentarian, President of the Chamber of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco; Mr Rachid Talbi Alami, former Minister, Chairperson of the RNI group (*National Rally of Independents*) of the Chamber of Representatives and Chairperson of the Committee of Inquiry on Gdeim Izik; Mr Omar Adkhil, Saharan parliamentarian, Chairperson of the Commission for Justice and Human Rights of the House of Councillors; Mr Ahmed Abbadi, Social and Economic Council for the presentation of the Framework Paper on the Sahara; Ms Khadija Merouazi, Secretary General of the Ombudsman for Democracy and Human Rights;

on Thursday 14 March 2013

- **Violence against religious communities:** heard a statement by the Rapporteur, Mr Luca Volontè (Italy, EPP/CD); considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Increasing drug traffic from Afghanistan as a threat to European security:** heard a statement by the Rapporteur, Lord Tomlinson (United Kingdom, SOC), considered a preliminary draft memorandum following his visit to Ankara (14 February 2013), and agreed to modify the title of the report to *Drug traffic from Afghanistan as a threat to European security*;
- **Democracy and the limitation of mandates:** in the absence of the Rapporteur, Mr Mike Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE), heard a statement by Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission, considered an option to present an information report, and postponed the decision to a forthcoming meeting;
- **Situation in the Middle East:** heard a statement by the Rapporteur, Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC), and by Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-committee on the Middle East, on the preparation of the visit to the region in April 2013 and considered possible options pending receipt of a reply from the Knesset;
- **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2012-2013:** heard a statement by the Rapporteur, Mr Dirk van der Maelen (Belgium, SOC), on his participation in the OECD Parliamentary Days, Paris, 11-13 February 2013, and on his visit to the OECD, 8 March 2013, and agreed on a timetable for the preparation of the report;
- **Follow-up to the meeting of the Bureau (Paris, 7 March 2013):** nominated members (see list appended) to participate in the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to take part in the Joint Conference with the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Members Nations: *Role of Parliamentary Organisations in building a Europe without dividing lines* (St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 12 April 2013), and authorised its Chairperson to nominate additional members if need be;
- **Follow-up to adopted texts emanating from the Committee:** in the framework of the follow-up to Resolution 1913 (2013) on *The activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2010-2012*, decided to request to be seized for a new report on this issue, for the period 2013-2014;
- **Changes in the composition of sub-committees:** approved the following changes:
 - Mr Bernard Pasquier (Monaco, ALDE) became full member of the Sub-committees on external relations and on the relations with the OECD and the EBRD;
 - Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) became member (as alternate of Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD) of the Sub-committee on the relations with the OECD and the EBRD;
 - Ms Fiamma Nirenstein (Italy, EPP/CD) and Mr Paolo Giaretta (Italy, ALDE) became respectively full member and alternate of the Sub-committee on the Middle East;
- **Next meetings**
 - 22-26 April 2013 (2nd part session), Strasbourg
 - 5-6 June 2013, Paris
 - 24-28 June 2013 (3rd part session), Strasbourg
 - 6 September 2013, Paris
 - 30 September – 4 October 2013 (4th part session), Strasbourg
 - 8 November 2013, Paris
 - 10-11 December 2013, Paris.

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

Nominations on behalf of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

**to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau to take part in the International parliamentary conference on
The role of Parliamentary Organisations in building a Europe without dividing lines
(St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 12 April 2013)**

Mr Aligrudic, Serbia, EDG
Mr Baykal, Turkey, SOC
Ms Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD
Mr Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG
Mr Giaretta, Italy, ALDE
Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC
Mr Hajiev, Azerbaijan, SOC
Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE
Mr Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD
Mr Iwinski, Poland, SOC
Mr Mariani, France, EPP/CD
Ms Orobets, Ukraine, EPP/CD
Mr Popescu, Ukraine, SOC
Ms de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD
Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE
Mr Vitali, Italy, EPP/CD
Mr Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD
Mr Walter, United Kingdom, EDG
Ms Woldseth, Norway, EDG
Ms Wurm, Austria, SOC