



SECRETARIAT

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 April 2013

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 April 2013, with Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC) and Mr João Bosco Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

#### on Monday, 22 April 2013, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Election of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson of the Committee:** elected by acclamation Mr Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD);
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG*):
  - held an exchange of views with a delegation of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan consisting of:
    - Ms Asia Sasykbaeva, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament,
    - Mr Almazbek Baatyrbekov, member of Parliament,
    - Mr Nurgazy Aidarov, member of Parliament,
    - Mr Daniyar Terbishaliev, member of Parliament;
  - considered a draft introductory memorandum;
  - agreed to the Rapporteur's request to carry out a new fact-finding visit to the country, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau;
  - took note of the invitation by the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament for a group of members of the Committee to visit Kyrgyzstan;

#### on Tuesday 23 April 2013, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:

- **Drug traffic from Afghanistan as a threat to European security** (*Rapporteur: Lord Tomlinson, United Kingdom, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Situation in the Middle East** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pietro Marcenaro, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East on the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the visit of the Sub-Committee to the region (6-9 April 2013);
- **Reports from Committee representatives to external events:** heard a statement by its Chairperson on his participation in the Joint Seminar NATO PA Rose-Roth Mediterranean and Middle East Group Special (GSM) and Sub-Committee on East-West Economic Co-operation and Convergence (ESCEW), 3-5 April 2013 and took note of the intention of its Chairperson to invite Mr Salam Kawakibi, ARI (Arab Reform Initiative) Research Director at one of its next meetings;

- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG*): continued the exchange of views with the delegation of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan;

**on Tuesday 23 April 2013, 15:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:**

- **Violence against religious communities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Luca Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD*): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution;

**on Thursday 25 April 2013, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9, as regards:**

- **Democracy and the limitation of mandates** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mike Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, approved an information report, and agreed that it would be submitted to the Standing Committee to be held on 22 November 2013;

- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG*):

- upon the invitation by the Deputy Speaker of the Kirghiz Parliament, decided to set up an *ad hoc* Sub-Committee composed of representatives of all political groups of the Assembly to carry out a fact-finding visit to Kyrgyzstan (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);
- agreed that the timing for the presentation of the report to the Assembly, and the conditions to be associated with the status, should be decided on the basis of the findings of such visit;

- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andres Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD*):

- heard a statement by the Rapporteur containing proposals for follow-up action, on the basis of a memorandum on the relations between the Council of Europe and Belarus prepared by the Secretariat under the instructions of the President of the Assembly and discussed by the Bureau of the Assembly on 7 March 2013;
- decided to invite, at one of its next meetings, representatives of the Belarusian parliament for an exchange of views;
- decided to organise a seminar on the abolition of the death penalty, in co-operation with the Belarusian parliamentary working group on capital punishment and possibly the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights as well as with the participation of Council of Europe experts and civil society organisations;
- agreed to the Rapporteur's request to carry out a fact-finding visit to Belarus, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau, and urged the Belarusian authorities to react positively to this request;
- decided to request the opinion of the Venice Commission on the "Law on the Bar and Legal Practice in the Republic of Belarus", which entered into force in 2012;

- **Follow-up to Resolution 1912 (2013) on The Situation in Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and the role of the Council of Europe:**

- took note of the decision taken by the Assembly in the framework of the Bureau's Progress Report regarding the Implementation of paragraph 13.3 of Resolution 1912 (2013) on *The situation in Kosovo and the role of the Council of Europe*;
- heard a statement by the Chairperson and held an exchange of views with representatives of the Kosovo Assembly:
  - Mr Hydajet Hyseni, 1st Vice Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Affairs,
  - Ms Vjosa Osmani, Member of the Committee for European Integration;

- **Follow-up to Bureau decisions:** heard a statement by Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Moderator at 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* which took place in St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 12 April 2013;

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<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.

- **Political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Anne Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE*): held an exchange of views with:
  - Ms Basma Jebali, member of the National Constituent Assembly,
  - Mr Mohamed Khila, member of the National Constituent Assembly;

**on Thursday 25 April 2013, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9, as regards:**

- **Motion for a resolution on The functioning of democratic institutions in Romania:**
  - heard a statement by the Chairperson;
  - held an exchange of views on a letter received by the Chairperson from the Head of the Romanian delegation;
  - decided not to follow up the motion for a resolution and to inform the Bureau accordingly;
- **Measures to combat the rising popularity of right-wing extremism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the Council of Europe's member States:** took note of this motion for a resolution and decided to ask the Bureau that it be referred to the Committee to be taken into account in the report under preparation by Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD) on *Counteraction to manifestations of neo-nazism and xenophobia*;
- **European Forum about the future:** took note of the decision of the Assembly to refer this motion for a resolution to the Committee for information; heard a statement by Mr Latchezar Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP/CD) followed by an exchange of views, and decided to ask the Bureau that the Committee be seized for report;
- **Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2013-2014:** called for candidates for report; took note of the candidature of Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EDG) and decided to appoint the Rapporteur at its next meeting in Paris, on 5-6 June 2013;
- **Political transition in Egypt:** called for candidates for report; took note of the candidature of Mr José Maria Beneyto (Spain, EPP/CD) and decided to appoint the Rapporteur at its next meeting in Paris, on 5-6 June 2013;
- **Changes in the composition of sub-committees:** approved the following changes:
  - Sub-committee on the Middle East
    - Mr Mark Verheijen (Netherlands, ALDE) to become a titular member,
    - Mr Attila Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD) to become a titular member and Mr Viorel Riceard Badea (Romania, PPE) to become his alternate,
    - Ms Natalia Burykina (Russian Federation, EDG) to become a titular member and Mr Leonid Slutsky (Russian Federation, SOC) to become her alternate,
    - Ms Tinatin Khidasheli (Georgia, ALDE) to become a titular member,
    - M. Terence Flanagan (Ireland, EPP/CD) to become a titular member and M. Terry Leyden (Ireland, ALDE) to become his alternate;
  - Sub-Committee on external relations
    - Mr Florin Iordache (Romania, SOC) to become titular member and Mr Daniel Florea (Romania, SOC) to become his alternate,
    - M. Terry Leyden (Ireland, ALDE) and M. Terence Flanagan (Ireland, EPP/CD) to be put on the waiting list;
  - Sub-Committee on the relations with the OECD and the EBRD
    - Mr Mugurel Cozmanciuc (Romania, ALDE) to become titular member and M. Ioan Ghișe (Roumanie, ALDE) to become his alternate;

– **Authorisations by the Committee:**

- authorised Mr Tuur Elzinga (The Netherlands, UEL), former Rapporteur on the activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to take part in the 2013 EBRD Business Forum, to be held alongside the Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the EBRD which will take place on 10-11 May 2013 in Istanbul;
- authorised Mr Joachim Hörster (Germany, EPP/CD) to pay a fact-finding visit to Cyprus in the second half of the year 2013;

– **Other business:**

**Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict** (Rapporteur: Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier): decided to request an extension of validity of the reference to the Bureau of the Assembly, until 30 April 2014; took note of the intention of the Rapporteur to visit the region at the end of May 2013, in the framework of the preparation of her report (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);

– **Next meetings:**

- 5-6 June 2013, Paris
- 24-28 June 2013 (3<sup>rd</sup> part session), Strasbourg
- 6 September 2013, Paris
- 30 September – 4 October 2013 (4<sup>th</sup> part session), Strasbourg
- 8 November 2013, Paris
- 10-11 December 2013, Paris.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 24 April 2013, with Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **First part of the visit to the Middle East:** held an exchange of views on the first part of the visit which took place in Jordan and Palestine, 6-9 April 2013;
- **Second part of the visit to the Middle East:** heard a statement from its Chairperson on the preparation of the meeting to be held in Israel, 30 April – 1 May 2013;
- **Other business:** none;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** decided to hold a meeting in Paris on 5 June 2013 (11.30am-12.30pm).

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