



SECRETARIAT

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 24 to 27 June 2013

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg from 24 to 27 June 2013, with Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC) and Mr Björn von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair,

#### on Monday, 24 June 2013, as regards:

- **Debate under urgent procedure: Popular protest and challenges to freedom of assembly, media and speech:** appointed Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera (Spain, SOC) as rapporteur;
- **Keeping political and criminal responsibility separate** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC*): considered a report by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and approved the Committee's opinion including four amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 1912 (2013) on *The Situation in Kosovo*<sup>1</sup> and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur followed by an exchange of views with members of the Kosovo Assembly, Mr Hydajet Hyseni Kaloshi, 1st Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Ms Vjosa Osmani, Member of the Committee on European Integration; took also note of the reply by the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2006 (2013) on *The Situation in Kosovo and the role of the Council of Europe*;

#### on Tuesday, 25 June 2013, as regards:

- **The situation in the Middle East** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pietro Marcenaro, Italy, SOC*): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict** (*Rapporteur: Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, Switzerland, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her visit to the region and approved her request of an information visit to Algeria (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly);
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Luca Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD*): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Debate under urgent procedure: Popular protest and challenges to freedom of assembly, media and speech** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): considered a draft report;

<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.

**on Wednesday, 26 June 2013, as regards:**

- **Debate under urgent procedure: Popular protest and challenges to freedom of assembly, media and speech** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): approved a report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on his visit to the country, considered a revised preliminary draft report and agreed to declassify it; took note that the visit of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on Kyrgyzstan was foreseen from 28 October to 1 November 2013, and agreed to return to the issue after this visit;
- **Partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly**: held an exchange of views with a parliamentary delegation from the Jordanian House of Representatives: Mr Mustapha Ibrahim Al Hamarneh, MP and Mr Yousef Al Qarneh, MP;
- **Resignation of the Chairperson of the Committee**: heard a statement by the Chairperson that he would resign as from the next day, 27 June 2013;

**on Thursday, 27 June 2013, as regards:**

- **Election of the Chairperson of the Committee**: elected by acclamation Mr Björn von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) and paid tribute to Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC), outgoing Chairperson of the Committee;
- **Debate under urgent procedure: Popular protest and challenges to freedom of assembly, media and speech** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution;
- **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2012-2013** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC*): considered a draft report and agreed that it would be sent to overseas delegations and to the OECD for comments or contributions;
- **The situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andres Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with a delegation from the House of Representatives (lower chamber) of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus: Mr Nikolai Samoseiko, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on International Affairs, Head of the Working Group on the Death Penalty in the House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Delegation for Contacts with PACE, and Mr Aleksandr Zozulya, Chairperson of the Standing Commission on State-Building, Local Governance and Regulation, member of the Working Group on the Death Penalty;
- **Changes in the composition of Sub-Committees**: approved the following changes: Mr Norbert Hauptert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) to become the substitute of Mr Fernand Boden in the Sub-Committee on Relations with the OECD and the EBRD instead of his substitute in the Sub-Committee on the Middle East; Mr Pedro Agramunt (Spain, EPP/CD) to become member of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on Kyrgyzstan instead of Mr João Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD);
- **Authorisations by the Committee**:
  - authorised Mr José María Beneyto (Spain, EPP/CD) to pay an information visit to Egypt in the framework of the preparation of his report on the *Political transition in Egypt* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
  - authorised Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) to pay information visits to a number of Council of Europe member States in the framework of the preparation of his report on *Challenges of a federal Europe*;
- **Other business**:
  - decided, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly, to hold its meeting of 8 November 2013 in Lisbon, Portugal (instead of Paris) and to devote part of it to a conference on *The political changes in the South Mediterranean and in the Middle East: the role of representative institutions*, to which members of parliament or of constituent assemblies from all

the countries of the South Mediterranean (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt), as well as from Jordan and the Palestinian National Council, would be invited;

- noted that the conference would be organised in association with the North-South Centre and would follow the Lisbon Forum (6-7 November 2013) on “*Civil society as actor of governance*” *How can the three institutional partners (Governments, Parliaments, Local and Regional Authorities) contribute to making civil society the fourth actor of governance in the Southern Mediterranean region?*;
- decided to constitute an *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to allow participation of members in the Lisbon Forum on 6-7 November 2013;

– **Next meetings:**

- 4 September afternoon and 5 September 2013, Paris,
- 30 September – 4 October 2013 (4<sup>th</sup> part session), Strasbourg,
- 8 November 2013, Lisbon, Portugal (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly),
- 10-11 December 2013, Paris.

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**The Sub-Committee on external relations** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 26 June 2013, with Mr Miloš Aligrudić (Serbia, EDG) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-committee:** elected by acclamation Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD) as Vice-Chairperson;
- **Future work:** heard a statement by its Chairperson followed by an exchange of views and agreed to his proposals:
  - to explore the possibility of holding a meeting in Geneva with UN agencies, in accordance with Assembly Order 500 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly),
  - and to organise, in Strasbourg or Paris, an exchange of views with representatives of the permanent Committee on Political Issues and International Co-operation of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS IPA);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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**The *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on Kyrgyzstan** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 26 June 2013, with Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

- **Election of the Bureau of the *ad hoc* Sub-committee:** elected Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) as Vice-Chairperson;
- **Fact-finding visit to Kyrgyzstan:**
  - confirmed dates for the fact-finding visit (28 October to 1 November 2013), subject to the agreement of the Kyrgyz side,
  - held an exchange of views on a programme, and agreed to include a trip to Osh in the South of Kyrgyzstan;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the 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