



SECRETARIAT

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10 September 2013

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris from 4 to 5 September 2013

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Paris from 4 to 5 September 2013, with Mr Björn von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

on Wednesday, 4 September 2013, as regards:

- **Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Robert Örell, Director of EXIT Fryshuset, Stockholm, and Mr Hans Martens, Chief Executive, European Policy Centre, Brussels; took note that the Rapporteur wished to concentrate on manifestations of neo-Nazism and authorised her to pay fact-finding visits to Greece, Russia and Germany in the context of the preparation of her report;
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): heard a statement from the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with the Palestinian partner for democracy delegation; took note of the Rapporteur's intention to carry out a fact-finding visit to the region in the autumn, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau;
- **Political transition in Egypt** (*Rapporteur: Mr José María Beneyto, Spain, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Tewfik Aclimandos, Research Associate at the Chair of Modern History of the Arab World at the College of France, specialist in Egyptian history, and Mr Richard Atwood, Director of Research, International Crisis Group, and decided to invite representatives of political forces from Egypt to one of its next meetings;

on Thursday, 5 September 2013, as regards:

- **Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict** (*Rapporteur: Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, Switzerland, SOC*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Driss El Yazami, President of the National Council for Human Rights of Morocco; Ms Hasna Abouzaid, member of the Moroccan Parliament; Ms Senia Ahmed Merhba, representative of the Polisario Front; Mr Omar Mansour, representative of the Polisario Front; and Mr Djamel Ouldabbes, member of the Algerian Council of the Nation; took note of the preparation of the upcoming visit of the Rapporteur to Algiers and Tindouf (6-9 October 2013);
- **The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2012-2013** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC*): enlarged to delegations of national parliaments of OECD member States which are not members of the Council of Europe, heard a statement by Mr Motoyuki Odachi, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan; approved a report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: held an exchange of views on the situation in Syria; decided to request that an urgent debate be held during the forthcoming part-session of the Assembly (30 September – 4 October 2013); and appointed its Chairperson as Rapporteur for this urgent debate, subject to the decision by the Bureau and the Assembly;

- **Political transition in Tunisia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Anne Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE*): held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country with the participation of Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Deputy Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
- **Follow-up to paragraphs 16 and 18 of Resolution 1940 (2013) on The situation in the Middle East**: decided to pursue contacts with representatives of political forces in Egypt, to continue to follow the situation in Syria, to develop its relations with the Parliament of Jordan in the framework of its request for partner for democracy status with the Assembly and to continue to follow closely the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in the framework of its Sub-Committee on the Middle East;
- **Call for candidates for reports**: called for candidatures for the following reports: *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco*; *Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan*; *Situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013)*; *European Forum about the future*; and decided to appoint the Rapporteurs during the forthcoming part-session of the Assembly;
- **Conference on Political parties – key factors in the political development. 20 years since the accession of Romania to the Council of Europe (Bucharest, Romania, 18-19 October 2013)**: called for candidates to participate in this Conference (at no expense for the Assembly);
- **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on the Lisbon Forum on Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the Southern Mediterranean region – How can the Governments, Parliaments and Local and Regional Authorities contribute to making civil society an actor of governance? (Lisbon, 6-7 November 2013) followed by the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy including the regional conference on The political changes in the South Mediterranean and in the Middle East: the role of representative institutions (8 November 2013)**: took note of the background document and programmes for these events; decided to resume their preparation during the forthcoming part-session of the Assembly, and appointed members to the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee (see appendix: provisional list of members which will be completed during the part-session);
- **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 27-29 November 2013)**: took note of the decision taken at the Bureau's meeting in Dubrovnik to create an *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in this event and asked members to contact the secretariat if they were interested in participating (in a delegation to be approved during the October session);
- **Impunity of perpetrators of crimes committed by totalitarian communist regimes in Europe**: took note of this motion for a recommendation, which was referred to the Committee for information;
- **Other business**: accepted the invitation by Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Chairperson of the Swedish delegation, to hold a meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, on 11-12 March 2014, and decided to request the formal authorisation of the Bureau during the forthcoming part-session;
- **Next meetings**:
 - 30 September – 4 October 2013 (4th part session), Strasbourg,
 - 8 November 2013, Lisbon, Portugal,
 - 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

05/09/2013

***Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Lisbon Forum / Sous-commission ad hoc sur le Forum de Lisbonne
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy / de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie***

30 seats / 30 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**Chairperson / Président(e)**

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Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)

...

Members / Membres

1.	Mr Sabir HAJIYEV (SOC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
2.	Ms Josette DURRIEU (SOC)	France
3.	Ms Tinatin KHIDASHELI (ALDE)	Georgia / Géorgie
4.	Ms Theodora BAKOYANNIS (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce
5.	Mr Andrea RIGONI (ALDE)	Italy / Italie
6.	Mr Tadeusz IWIŃSKI (SOC)	Poland / Pologne
7.	Mr João Bosco MOTA AMARAL (EPP/CD)	Portugal
8.	Mme Liliane MAURY PASQUIER (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse
9.	Mr Deniz BAYKAL (SOC)	Turkey / Turquie
10.	Mr Şaban DİŞLİ (EPP/CD)	Turkey / Turquie
11.	Mr Donald ANDERSON (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
12.	Mme Anne BRASSEUR (ADLE)	Chairperson ALDE / Présidente ADLE
13.	Mr Andreas GROSS (SOC)	Chairperson SOC / Président SOC

Ex-officio :

Mr Björn Von SYDOW (Sweden, SOC)

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie