



SECRETARIAT

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9 October 2013

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 30 September to 3 October 2013

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg from 30 September to 3 October 2013, with Mr Björn von Sydow (Sweden, SOC), Mr João Bosco Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD) and Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair:

- on Monday 30 September 2013 at 2 pm, as regards:
 - Debate under urgent procedure - The Situation in Syria (*Rapporteur: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): held and exchange of views with the participation of Mr Jean-Pascal Zanders, Disarmament Consultant at The Trench and Former Senior Research Fellow at the European Union Institute for Security Studies;
- on Tuesday 1 October 2013 at 8:30, as regards:
 - Enlarged debate on The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2012-2013 (*Rapporteur: Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC*), with the participation of delegations of national parliaments of OECD member States which are not members of the Council of Europe: took position on the amendments to the draft resolution;
 - Appointment of rapporteurs: appointed:
 - Mr Bogdan Klich (Poland, EPP/CD) for a report on *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco*,
 - Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC) for a report on *Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan*,
 - Mr Robert Walter (United Kingdom, EDG) for a report on *Situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013)*,
 - Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera (Spain, SOC) for a report on *European Forum about the future*;

and heard from them declarations on the absence of conflict of interest in the subjects of their respective reports;

- World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 27-29 November 2013): appointed the following members to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in this event: Mr Deniz Baykal (Turkey, SOC), M. José Maria Beneyto (Spain, EPP/CD), Mr Sandro Gozi (Italy, NR), M. Andreas Gross (Switzerland, Chairperson SOC), Mr Mike Hancock (United-Kingdom, ALDE), M. Bogdan Klich (Poland, EPP/CD), Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE), Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), Mr Vincenzo Santangelo (Italy, NR);

- **on Tuesday 1 October 2013 at 2 pm**, as regards:
 - **Debate under urgent procedure - The Situation in Syria** (*Rapporteur: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): approved a report and adopted unanimously a draft recommendation;
 - **The situation in Kosovo¹ and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden SOC*): held an exchange of views with Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe and agreed to continue the discussion on this matter at its meeting on Thursday morning, 3 October 2013;
- **on Wednesday 2 October 2013 at 2 pm**, as regards:
 - **The situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andres Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Natallia Radzina, Editor in chief of the independent Belarusian news site Charter97.org (Warsaw, Poland) and Mr Alaksandr Łahviniec, Vice-Chairperson of the Movement for Freedom (Minsk, Belarus) and asked the Rapporteur to prepare a draft statement for approval by the Committee on the following day;
 - **Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict** (*Rapporteur: Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, Switzerland, SOC*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an introductory memorandum and asked the Moroccan partner for democracy delegation to submit in writing comments on the latter for the attention of the Rapporteur;
- **on Thursday 3 October 2013 at 8:30 am**, as regards:
 - **The situation in Belarus (cont'd)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andres Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD*): approved a statement entitled “*Dialogue between PACE and Belarus should remain conditional*”;
 - **Debate under urgent procedure - The Situation in Syria** (*Rapporteur: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): took position on amendments to the draft recommendation; held an exchange of views with Mr Olivier Beer, Representative of the UN High Commissioner for refugees to the European institutions; was informed that Mr Marcenaro, former Chairperson of the Committee, would visit the Kurdish region of Syria in October and agreed to invite him to the next meeting of the Committee on 8 November 2013 in Lisbon in order to hear a report from him on this visit;
 - **The situation in Kosovo^{*} and the role of the Council of Europe (cont'd)** (*Rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden SOC*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Hydajet Hyseni, Vice-Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Kosovo Assembly;
 - **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on the Lisbon Forum on Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the South Mediterranean (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)**: appointed members to the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee and agreed that it would be chaired by Mr Mota Amaral (see appended list); thanked the Portuguese Parliament for its invitation to hold a meeting in Lisbon and took note of the state of preparation of the Regional Conference and the meeting of the Committee (see appended programme);
 - **Request for consultation by the Bureau of the Assembly**: held an exchange of views on the motion for a resolution on *Persecution of Christians and the diminishing of Christian communities in the Muslim world, particularly in Syria* and decided to request to the Bureau that the Committee be seized for report, the exact scope and focus of which to be decided at a later stage;
 - **Open discussion on current issues**: held an exchange of views on a number of current political issues;

¹ 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.

- **Changes in the composition of Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - Mr Olivier Henry (Belgium, SOC) becomes member of the Sub-Committee on External Relations and Mr Roel Deseyn (Belgium, EPP/CD) becomes his alternate,
 - Mr Olivier Henry (Belgium, SOC) becomes the alternate of Mr Dirk van der Maelen (Belgium, SOC) in the Sub-Committee on Relations with the OECD and EBRD,
 - Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera (Spain, SOC) becomes member instead of alternate in the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and Mr Pedro Agramunt (Spain, EPP/CD) becomes an *ex officio* member,
 - Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL) replaces Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) in the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Kyrgyzstan in respect of the Unified Left Group;
- **Appointment of Committee representatives to external events:** authorised Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) to attend the 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) at no expense to the Assembly;
- **Other business:** took note of the invitation of the Chairperson of the Greek parliamentary delegation to the Assembly to hold a meeting and a conference on the Middle East in Athens during the first half of May 2014 and decided to return to this matter at one of its next meetings;
- **Next meetings:**
 - 6-7 November 2013, *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on the Lisbon Forum,
 - 8 November 2013, Lisbon, Portugal,
 - 10 December and the morning of 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 3 October 2013, with Mr Miloš Aligrudić (Serbia, EDG) in the Chair, as regards:

- **External relations of the Council of Europe - Challenges of transition in the Arab world and possible Council of Europe contribution:** held an exchange of views with Mr Galal El Ghor, former Member of Parliament and member of the Free Egyptian Party;
- **Relations with the United Nations:** held an exchange of views with Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, on his recent visit to the United Nations in Geneva, discussed a possible visit to the United Nations in Geneva, took note that this visit might have to be postponed to the first half of 2014 due to the budgetary situation, and expressed hope that this would not prevent a meeting at the United Nations in New York to be held in the second half of 2014;
- **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 3 October 2013, with Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

- **Fact-finding visit to Kyrgyzstan:**
 - **confirmed** dates for the fact-finding visit (from 27 October to 1 November 2013);
 - **held** an exchange of views on a draft programme, and **agreed** to include a trip to Osh in the South of Kyrgyzstan;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** Bishkek and Osh, Kyrgyzstan, 27 October-1 November 2013.

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 1

09/10/2013

**Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Lisbon Forum / Sous-commission ad hoc du 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**

Mr João Bosco MOTA AMARAL, Portugal, EPP/CD

Members / Membres

1.	Ms Gisela WURM (SOC)	Austria / Autriche
2.	Ms Christine MUTTONEN (SOC)	Austria / Autriche
3.	Mr Sabir HAJIYEV (SOC)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
4.	Mr Samad SEYIDOV (EDG)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
5.	Ms Josette DURRIEU (SOC)	France
6.	Mr Jean-Marie BOCKEL (SOC)	France
7.	Ms Tinatin KHIDASHELI (ALDE)	Georgia / Géorgie
8.	Mr Johann WADEPHUL (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne
9.	Mr Andrea RIGONI (ALDE)	Italy / Italie
10.	Mr Zoran VUKČEVIĆ (SOC)	Montenegro
11.	Mr Tadeusz IWIŃSKI (SOC)	Poland / Pologne
12.	Mr João Bosco MOTA AMARAL (EPP/CD)	Portugal
13.	Ms Kerstin LUNDGREN (ALDE)	Sweden / Suède
14.	Mme Liliane MAURY PASQUIER (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse
15.	Mr Deniz BAYKAL (SOC)	Turkey / Turquie
16.	Mr Şaban DIŞLI (EPP/CD)	Turkey / Turquie
17.	Lord Donald ANDERSON (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
18.	Mr Mike HANCOCK (ALDE)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
19.	Mme Anne BRASSEUR (ADLE)	Chairperson ALDE / Présidente ADLE
20.	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

Appendix 2

Draft programme of the Regional Conference organised in cooperation with the Parliamentary Projects Support Division of the Assembly on
The political changes in the South Mediterranean and in the Middle East: the role of representative institutions

followed by the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Lisbon, 8 November 2013

09.00 Registration of participants

*Ismaili Centre, Avenida Lusitana, Lisbon
Meeting room: Salão Nobre*

09.30 Opening of the Conference

Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, President of the Chamber of Councillors, Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco

10.00 *Working session 1: Challenges of transition: national experiences*

Open debate with the participation of speakers and representatives of *parliaments of Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, of the Palestinian National Council and representatives of Egyptian political forces*

Moderator: Mr Bernard Sabella, Member of the Palestinian National Council, Chairperson of the Palestinian partner for democracy delegation to the Assembly

Statement by Mr Mohamed Salmawy, Spokesperson of the Constitutional Committee, Cairo, Egypt

Working session 2: Accompanying transitions: What can international partners offer?

- *Partnership for democracy with the Parliamentary Assembly as a platform for interparliamentary cooperation*

Presentation by Mr Tiny Kox, Chairperson of the Group of the Unified European Left, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The Moroccan experience

12.30 Lunch

14.00 *Working session 2 (cont'd)*

- *The contribution of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission to constitutional and legal reforms*

Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission

Summing-up by Mr João B. Mota Amaral, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, former Speaker of the Parliament of Portugal

15.30 End of the Conference and continuation of the Committee meeting

18.00 End of the Committee meeting and departure for the Portuguese Parliament

**18.30 Welcome by Ms Assunção Esteves, Speaker of the Parliament of Portugal (tbc)
Visit of the Portuguese Parliament and reception**