



SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2013) CB 08

18 November 2013

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Lisbon, Portugal on 8 November 2013

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Lisbon on 8 November 2013, with Mr Björn von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair as regards:

- **Regional Conference on *The political changes in the South Mediterranean and in the Middle East: the role of representative institutions***, organised in the framework of the Joint EU/CoE Programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood” (see list of participants in appendix 1):
  - heard introductory statements by Ms Assunção Esteves, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal; Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Mr Karim Ghellab, President of the Chamber of Representatives, Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco; Mr Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, President of the Chamber of Councillors, Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco; and Mr Nazim Ahmad, Representative of the Aga Khan Foundation;
  - held a debate with the participation of speakers and representatives of the parliaments of Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, of the Palestinian National Council and representatives of Egyptian political forces, on the following themes:
    - *Challenges of transition: national experiences*, moderated by Mr Bernard Sabella, Member of the Palestinian National Council, Chairperson of the Palestinian partner for democracy delegation to the Assembly;
    - *Accompanying transitions: What can international partners offer?* with presentations by:
      - . Mr Tiny Kox, Chairperson of the Group of the Unified European Left of the Assembly, on *The Partnership for democracy with the Parliamentary Assembly as a platform for interparliamentary cooperation*
      - . Mr Karim Ghellab, President of the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives, on *The Moroccan experience*
      - . Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission on *The contribution of the Council of Venice Commission to constitutional and legal reforms*;
  - heard a summing-up of the debates by Mr João B. Mota Amaral, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and former Speaker of the Parliament of Portugal, and decided to approve and publish these conclusions (see appendix 2);
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*): held a first exchange of views, with the participation of representatives from the Parliament of Jordan;

- **Situation in Syria** (*Rapporteur for the follow-up: Mr Björn von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): heard statements by the Rapporteur for the follow-up and by Mr Pietro Marcenaro, former Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, followed by an exchange of views, and took note that the Chairperson would prepare a public statement on this issue;
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG*): heard a statement by Mr Andreas Gross, Chairperson of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on Kyrgyzstan, on the fact-finding visit which took place in Bishkek and Osh from 28-31 October 2013, followed by an exchange of views; agreed to request an extension of the expiry date for adoption for this report until 25 November 2014;
- **Challenges of a federal Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the organisation of future work;
- **Persecution of Christians and the diminishing of Christian communities in the Muslim world, particularly in Syria**: held an exchange of views, decided to postpone the decision on the exact scope and focus of the report and called for candidates for the report;
- **Work programme**: heard a statement by Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC) on her recent visit to Algeria from 6 to 9 October 2013, in the framework of the preparation of her report on the *Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict*;
- **Next meetings:**
  - 10 December and the morning of 11 December 2013, Paris
  - 27-31 January 2014 (1<sup>st</sup> part-session), Strasbourg
  - 11-12 March 2014, Stockholm (subject to authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly)
  - May 2014, date and place to be confirmed
  - 4-5 September 2014, Paris
  - 3 November 2014, Paris
  - 8-9 December 2014, Paris.

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The ***ad hoc* Sub-Committee on the Lisbon Forum** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy) took part in the Lisbon Forum 2013 on *Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the South Mediterranean – How can the Governments, Parliaments and Local and Regional Authorities contribute to making civil society an actor of governance?*; which was organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and funded by the European Union in the framework of the Joint EU/CoE Programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood”, and which took place in Lisbon, from 6 to 7 November 2013 (see list of members in appendix 3).

D. Chatzivassiliou, J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko

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

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

## PARLIAMENT OF THE HOST COUNTRY / PARLEMENT DU PAYS HÔTE

Mme	ESTEVES	Assunção	Speaker of the Parliament of Portugal / <i>Présidente du Parlement portugais</i>
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PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE) /  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE (APCE)

M.	MIGNON	Jean-Claude	President / <i>Président</i>
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Members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /  
*Membres de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie*

Mr	VON SYDOW	Björn	Sweden, Chairperson / Suède, Président	(SOC)
Mr	ALIGRUDIĆ	Milos	Serbia / Serbie	(EDG)
Lord	ANDERSON	Donald	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	(SOC)
Mr	BAYKAL	Deniz	Turkey / <i>Turquie</i>	(SOC)
Mr	BENEYTO	José María	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	(EPP/CD)
Mr	BOCKEL	Jean-Marie	France	(EPP/CD)
Ms	BRASSEUR	Anne	Luxembourg	(ALDE)
Mr	BRAUN	Márton	Hungary / <i>Hongrie</i>	(EPP/CD)
Mr	BUGNON	André	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	(ALDE)
Mr	DÍAZ TEJERA	Arcadio	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	(SOC)
Mr	DIŞLI	Şaban	Turkey / <i>Turquie</i>	(EPP/CD)
Ms	DJUROVIĆ	Aleksandra	Serbia / Serbie	(EPP/CD)
Mme	DURRIEU	Josette	France	(SOC)
Mr	FLANAGAN	Terence	Ireland / <i>Irlande</i>	(EPP/CD)
Mr	FRÉCON	Jean-Claude	France	(SOC)
Mr	GARÐARSON	Karl	Iceland / <i>Islande</i>	(ALDE)
Mr	GROSS	Andreas	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	(SOC)
Ms	GUZENINA-RICHARDSON	Maria	Finland / <i>Finlande</i>	(SOC)
Mr	HAJIYEV	Sabir	Azerbaijan / <i>Azerbaïdjan</i>	(SOC)
Mr	HERKEL	Andres	Estonia / <i>Estonie</i>	(EPP/CD)
Mr	HÖRSTER	Joachim	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	(EPP/CD)
Mr	HUNKO	Andrej	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	(UJEL)
Mme	KHIDASHELI	Tinatin	Georgia / <i>Géorgie</i>	(ALDE)
Mr	KLICH	Bogdan	Poland / <i>Pologne</i>	(EPP/CD)
Mr	KOX	Tiny	Netherlands / <i>Pays Bas</i>	(UJEL)
Mme	MAURY PASQUIER	Liliane	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	(SOC)
Ms	MEMECAN	Nursuna	Turkey / <i>Turquie</i>	(ALDE)
Mr	MOTA AMARAL	João	Portugal	(EPP/CD)
Ms	MUTTONEN	Christine	Austria / <i>Autriche</i>	(SOC)
Mr	PAPADIMOULIS	Dimitrios	Greece	(UJEL)
Ms	POURBAIX LUNDIN (DE)	Marietta	Sweden / <i>Suède</i>	(EPP/CD)
Mr	RAČAN	Ivan	Croatia / <i>Croatie</i>	(SOC)
Mr	RIGONI	Andrea	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	(ALDE)

Mr	ROUQUET	René	France	(SOC)
Mr	VAN DER MAELEN	Dirk	Belgium / Belgique	(SOC)
Mr	VUKČEVIĆ	Zoran	Montenegro / Monténégro	(SOC)
Mr	WADEPHUL	Johann	Germany / Allemagne	(EPP/CD)
Ms	WURM	Gisela	Austria / Autriche	(SOC)

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE /  
SECRETARIAT DE L'ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr SAWICKI Wojciech Secretary General / Secrétaire Général

**OBSERVER DELEGATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY /  
DELEGATION D'OBSERVATEURS AUPRES DE L'ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE**

**Israel / Israël - Knesset**

Mr	HOFFMAN	Ronen	Member / Membre
Mr	OHAYON	Shimon	Member / Membre
Mr	SHAI	Nachman	Member / Membre

**PARTNER FOR DEMOCRACY DELEGATIONS /  
DELEGATIONS DE PARTENAIRES POUR LA DEMOCRATIE**

**Morocco / Maroc**

**Chamber of Representatives / Chambre des Représentants**

M.	GHELLAB	Karim	President / Président
M.	YATIM	Mohamed	Vice-President, Chairperson of the partner for democracy delegation to the PACE / Vice-Président, Président de la délégation partenaire pour la démocratie auprès de l'APCE
M.	AMEUR	Mohammed	Deputy / Député
M.	BENSAID	Mohammed	Deputy / Député

**Chamber of Councillors / Chambre des Conseillers**

M.	BIADILLAH	Mohammed	President / Président
M.	BERKIA	Abdelkebir	Councillor / Conseiller
M.	CHAGAF	Ali Salem	Councillor / Conseiller

**Palestine – Palestinian National Council / Conseil national palestinien**

M.	SABELLA	Bernard	Member, Chairperson of the partner for democracy delegation to the PACE / Membre, Président de la délégation partenaire pour la démocratie auprès de l'APCE
M.	SALHI	Bassam	Member / Membre

**OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF PARLIAMENTS - ASSEMBLIES - POLITICAL FORCES  
OF THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN REGION AND OF THE MIDDLE EAST /  
AUTRES REPRESENTANTS DE PARLEMENTS – ASSEMBLEES - FORCES POLITIQUES  
DE LA REGION DU SUD DE LA MEDITERRANEE ET DU PROCHE-ORIENT**

**Algeria / Algérie**

M.	KHALDI	Elhadi	Senator, Member of the National Council / <i>Sénateur, Membre du Conseil de la Nation</i>
M.	TAIBI	Mohamed	Deputy, National People's Assembly / <i>Député, Assemblée Nationale Populaire</i>

**Egypt / Egypte**

Mr	EL GHOR	Galal	Head of the Energy Committee, Free Egyptian Party / <i>Chef de la Commission de l'énergie, Parti Libre de l'Égypte</i>
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**Jordan – House of Representatives / Jordanie – Chambre des Représentants**

Mr	AL HAMARNEH	Mustafa	Member / <i>Membre</i>
Mr	AL QARNEH	Yousef	Member / <i>Membre</i>
Mr	BANI HANI	Qasim	Member / <i>Membre</i>

**Lebanon – National Assembly / Liban – Assemblée nationale**

M.	MOUSSA	Michel	Member / <i>Membre</i>
M.	MOUKHEIBER	Ghassan	Member / <i>Membre</i>

**Tunisia – National Constituent Assembly / Tunisie – Assemblée Nationale Constituante**

M.	ABDELKEFI	Badreddine	Vice-President and Member of the Bureau / <i>Vice-Président et Membre du Bureau</i>
Mme	THEIRI	Rim	Member of the Education Committee / <i>Membre de la Commission des Affaires d'éducation</i>

**VENICE COMMISSION / COMMISSION DE VENISE**

M.	BUQUICCHIO	Gianni	President / <i>Président</i>
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**OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS**

Mr	AHMAD	Nazim	Representative of the Aga Khan Foundation / <i>Représentant de la Fondation Aga Khan</i>
M.	BERMOND	Michel	Secretary of the French Delegation to the PACE / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation française auprès de l'APCE</i>
M.	CHIBAN	Omar	Head of the President's Cabinet, Chamber of Councillors, Morocco / <i>Chef de Cabinet du Président, Chambre des Conseillers, Maroc</i>
Ms	CORDEIRO	Helena	Political and Public Relations Officer, Israeli Embassy in Lisbon / <i>Conseillère des Relations politiques et publiques, Ambassade d'Israël à Lisbonne</i>
Mr	DORNSEIFER	Rainer	Secretary of the German Delegation to the PACE / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation allemande auprès de l'APCE</i>
Mr	ERTUĞRULOĞLU	Tahsin	Representative of the Turkish Cypriot Community (in accordance with the PACE Resolution 1376 (2004) / <i>Représentant de la Communauté Chypriote Turque (conformément à la Résolution 1376 (2004) de l'APCE)</i>
Mr	GRABOWSKI	Jacek	Deputy to the Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe / <i>Adjoint au Chef de la Délégation, de l'Union européenne auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</i>

Ms	İLKMAN	Gülden	Secretariat of the Representatives of the Turkish Cypriot Community (in accordance with the PACE Resolution 1376 (2004) / <i>Secrétariat des Représentants de la Communauté Turque Chyprite (conformément à la Résolution 1376 (2004) de l'APCE)</i>
Mr	KEINAN	Lior	Counsellor, Israeli Embassy in Lisbon / <i>Conseiller, Ambassade d'Israël à Lisbonne</i>
Mr	KHRISHI	Ibrahim	Secretary General of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Permanent Secretariat of the Palestinian partner for democracy delegation to the PACE / <i>Secrétaire Général du Conseil législatif palestinien, Secrétariat permanent de la délégation palestinienne partenaire pour la démocratie auprès de l'APCE</i>
Mr	LAZĂR	Mircea	Embassy of Romania in Lisbon / <i>Ambassade de Roumanie à Lisbonne</i>
Ms	LINDENBAUM	Ann Sofi	Secretary of the Swedish Delegation to the PACE / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation suédoise auprès de l'APCE</i>
M.	MARCENARO	Pietro	Former Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the PACE / <i>Ancien Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie de l'APCE</i>
Mr	MILIVOJEVIĆ	Dejan	Secretary of the Serbian Delegation to the PACE / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation serbe auprès de l'APCE</i>
M.	PINON	Xavier	Secretariat of the French National Assembly, Assistant of Mr Mignon / <i>Secrétariat de l'Assemblée nationale française, Assistant de M. Mignon</i>
Ms	RIMON	Tzipora	Ambassador of Israel in Portugal / <i>Ambassadrice d'Israël au Portugal</i>
Mr	TAWARNEH	Hassan	Secretariat, House of Representatives of Jordan / <i>Secrétariat, Chambre des Représentants de la Jordanie</i>

## Appendix 2

### The political changes in the South Mediterranean and in the Middle East: the role of representative institutions

#### ***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***

In 2011, mass popular movements in Tunisia and Egypt set in motion the process of political transformation which is now known as “the Arab Spring”. The people in a number of countries stood up in a quest for freedom, dignity and equality, against social injustice and political persecution, and against corrupt and oppressive rule. They expressed a clear will to enjoy fundamental freedoms and to have a say on their own future – in other words, to see their countries transformed into democracies.

Even if in varying forms, with different degrees of anticipation by the authorities and with uneven results, this process has extended to, or influenced, almost the whole region of South Mediterranean and Middle East. It has brought about high hopes and expectations, both throughout the region and beyond.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe welcomed this process with enthusiasm and offered its support, including through the prospect of offering partner for democracy status to parliaments in the emerging democracies of the region. It also served as a bridge between the countries in transition and the Council of Europe expert body on constitutional and legal reforms, the Venice Commission.

However, change doesn’t come overnight, and requires hard work. The will of the people expressed on streets and squares needs to be transformed into legal acts through democratic process and legitimate institutions. Representative institutions, such as Parliaments and Constituent Assemblies, have a key role to play in this transformation process. As the pillars of democratic power, they offer an optimal framework to transform the will of the general public into political decisions, and should be actors of change, while at the same time ensuring the respect of the general interest.

It is a duty of politicians and institutions not to fail to peoples’ expectations. Otherwise, they will be swept away by new rounds of mass protests, which could eventually degenerate into terror, violence and war. We cannot afford for this to happen again. The civil war going on in Syria for more than two and a half years, with its devastating humanitarian consequences both in the country and in the neighbouring countries, is the tragic demonstration of how wrong things can go if politicians fail the peoples’ expectations.

Building democracy is never an accomplished process; it is always “work in progress”, be it in Europe, or in the Mediterranean, or elsewhere. It is a long path full of traps. We have a better chance of avoiding such traps if we go it together, and if we can rely on the experience of friends.

Our conference today in Lisbon has included exchanges with speakers and representatives of parliaments of Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, of the Palestinian National Council and representatives of Egyptian political forces.

It is but a step on the path to democracy. Let us continue further along it. The Assembly is genuinely committed to pursuing the dialogue with our colleagues from neighbouring regions, and stands ready to continue sharing our experience.

#### Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood



### Appendix 3

05/11/2013

***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.	Ms Josette DURRIEU (SOC)	France
5.	Mr Jean-Marie BOCKEL (SOC)	France
6.	Mr Jean-Claude FRECON (SOC)	France
7.	Ms Tinatin KHIDASHELI (ALDE)	Georgia / Géorgie
8.	Mr Johann WADEPHUL (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne
9.	Mr Joachim HÖRSTER (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne
10.	Mr Andrea RIGONI (ALDE)	Italy / Italie
11.	Mr Joseph DEBONO GRECH (SOC)	Malta / Malte
12.	Mr Zoran VUKČEVIĆ (SOC)	Montenegro
13.	Mr Bogdan KLICH (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
14.	Mr Tadeusz IWIŃSKI (SOC)	Poland / Pologne
15.	Mr João Bosco MOTA AMARAL (EPP/CD)	Portugal
16.	Mr José María BENEYTO (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne
17.	Mme Liliane MAURY PASQUIER (SOC)	Switzerland / Suisse
18.	Mr Deniz BAYKAL (SOC)	Turkey / Turquie
19.	Mme Lesia OROBETS (EPP/CD)	Ukraine
20.	Mr Mike HANCOCK (ALDE)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
21.	Mme Anne BRASSEUR (ADLE)	Chairperson ALDE / Présidente ADLE
22.	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