



SECRETARIAT

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4 February 2014

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 27 to 30 January 2014

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 27 to 30 January 2014, first with Mr Hans Franken (Netherlands, EPP/CD), then with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Mr Miloš Aligrudić (Serbia, EDG) in the Chair:

#### **Monday, 27 January 2014, 14:00 – 15:00, room 9, as regards:**

- **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:** elected by acclamation:
  - Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Chairperson,
  - Mr Mike Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson,
  - Mr Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson,
  - Mr Miloš Aligrudić (Serbia, EDG), 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson;
- **Reconstitution of Sub-Committees:**
  - reconstituted the following Sub-Committees:
    - the Sub-Committee on the Middle East,
    - the Sub-Committee on External Relations,
    - the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD;
  - decided to change the name of the first Sub-Committee to the **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World**;
- **Internet and politics: the impact of new information and communication technology on democracy** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Hans Franken, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): considered a report by the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and approved the Committee's opinion including four amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Syrian refugees: how to organise and support international assistance?** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Şaban Dışlı, Turkey, EPP/CD*): considered a report by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and approved the Committee's opinion including three amendments to the draft resolution;

– **Appointment of the institutional representatives of the Committee:** in the framework of the Assembly's institutional representation, appointed members and substitutes to represent the Committee at meetings of the following bodies in 2014 and decided to inform the bureau accordingly:

- Council for democratic elections of the Venice Commission:
  - Member: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC,
  - Substitute: Ms Tinatin Khidasheli, Georgia, ALDE,
- ECRI (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance):
  - Member: Ms Cheryl Gillan, United Kingdom, EDG,
  - Substitute: none;

– **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic:** was informed that further to the departure of Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, there was a need to appoint a new Rapporteur to finalise the latter's work and called for candidates;

#### **Tuesday 28 January 2014, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9**

– **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic:** appointed Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC), who chaired the former ad hoc Sub-Committee on Kyrgyzstan, as Rapporteur; heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest; also took note that he intended to maintain the visit to the country foreseen by his predecessor, and that such a visit would take place on 24-25 February 2014, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly;

– **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council:** took position on the 3 amendments to the draft resolution;

– **Situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EDG*): heard a statement from the Rapporteur and approved his proposal to consult the Hungarian delegation in order to ask for information in writing, by the end of March 2014, on the follow up given by the Hungarian authorities to the specific issues referred to in Resolution 1941 (2013); authorised the Rapporteur to pay an information visit to Budapest, in May or June 2014, to meet representatives of the new parliament and the new government;

– **The Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union – evaluation 5 years later** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kerstin Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Ms Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, Ambassador of the European Union to the Council of Europe; agreed, upon the proposal of the Rapporteur, to change the title of the report to "The implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union" ; and authorised the Rapporteur to pay an information visit to Brussels in March 2014;

#### **Wednesday 29 January 2014, 14:00 – 15:30, room 9**

– **The situation in Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and the role of the Council of Europe:** appointed Mr Agustín Conde (Spain, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;

– **Follow-up to the Lisbon meetings:** took note of the conclusions of the Lisbon Forum (6-7 November 2013) and of the proceedings of the Lisbon Conference (8 November 2013);

– **Preparation of next meetings:**

- took note of the state of preparation of the Committee's meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, 11-12 March 2014,

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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.

- accepted the invitation addressed last October by the Chairperson of the Greek delegation to hold a meeting in Athens and agreed to hold this meeting on 7-8 May 2014 (authorised by the Bureau of the Assembly on 31 January 2014); considered a preliminary draft programme, including a conference on *Freedom of religion and safety for the Christian communities in the Middle East and the Southern Mediterranean*, organised in the framework of the joint CoE/EU programme "Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood" ("South Programme"), with the participation of representatives of parliaments of Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, of the Palestinian National Council and of Egyptian political forces, as well as invited experts;
- **Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict** (*Rapporteur: Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, Switzerland, SOC*):
- held a hearing with the participation of civil society representatives from Laâyoune and Tindouf, namely:
    - Mr Abadila Essamlali, President of the ARRAI Association, Laâyoune,
    - Mr Abdellah Elharich, Secretary General of the Saharawi Association for democracy and social justice (MINBAR), Laâyoune,
    - Ms El Ghalia Djimi, Vice-President of the Sahrawi Association for the victims of grave human rights violations (ASVDH), Laâyoune,
    - Ms Fatimetou Moustapha Saleh, member of the National Council of the Association of the families of Sahrawi prisoners and disappeared persons (AFAPREDESA), Tindouf;
  - considered a preliminary draft report;

**Thursday 30 January 2014, 08:30 – 10:00, room 9**

- **Policy of the Council of Europe towards neighbouring regions:** held an exchange of views with Ambassador Manuel Jacoangeli, Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on external relations;
- **The political transition in Egypt** (*Rapporteur: Mr José María Beneyto, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his information visit to Cairo, 2-5 December 2013; agreed, upon the request of the Rapporteur, to ask to the Bureau for a prolongation of one year of the reference;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 1951 (2013) on The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2012-2013:** decided to ask the Bureau to be seized for report on "The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)" and called for candidates for the report;
- **The situation in Tunisia:** following the election of Ms Anne Brasseur, former Rapporteur, as President of the Assembly, called for candidates with a view to elect a new Rapporteur at one of its next meetings;
- **The situation in Iran:** upon the proposal of the Chairperson, decided to hold an exchange of views on the situation in Iran at one of its meetings;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** took note of the lists of members of the Sub-Committees (see appendix);
- **Other authorisations by the Committee:**
- decided to authorise the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend the meetings of the Committee throughout 2014;
  - authorised Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EDG), Rapporteur on *The activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2013-2014* to attend the Annual Meeting of the EBRD, in Warsaw, on 14-15 May 2014;
  - authorised Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Rapporteur on the *Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan*, to pay an information visit to Amman, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly;

– **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings as follows:

- 11-12 March 2014, Stockholm
- 7-11 April 2014, part-session of the Assembly, Strasbourg
- 7-8 May 2014, Athens (authorised by the Bureau of the Assembly on 31 January 2014)
- 23-27 June 2014, part-session of the Assembly, Strasbourg
- 4-5 September 2014, Paris
- 29 September – 3 October 2014, part-session of the Assembly, Strasbourg
- 3 November 2014, Paris
- 8-9 December 2014, Paris.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg, on Tuesday 28 January 2014, with Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC), then Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) Chairperson and Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) Vice-Chairperson, both by acclamation;
- **Situation in the region against the background of the war in Syria:** held an exchange of views;
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and regretted that a delegation from the Jordanian House of Representatives had cancelled its participation;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on External Relations** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg on 28 January 2014, with Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) then with Ms Meritxell Mateu Pi (Andorra, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected Mr José María Beneyto (Spain, EPP/CD) Chairperson and Ms Meritxell Mateu Pi (Andorra, ALDE) Vice-Chairperson, both by acclamation;<sup>2</sup>
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): held an exchange of views with a delegation from the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic:
  - Ms Asya Sasykbaeva, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament,
  - Mr Bakhadyr Syleymenov, Member of Parliament, Ata-Jurt party (opposition);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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<sup>2</sup> Ms Mateu Pi subsequently resigned as she was elected in the Bureau of another Sub-Committee, in accordance with the Assembly Rules.

The **Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg, on Tuesday 28 January 2014 with Mr Deniz Baykal (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected Mr Tuur Elzinga (Netherlands, UEL) Chairperson and Mr Jean-Marie Bockel (France, EPP/CD) Vice-Chairperson, both by acclamation;
- **Future work:** was informed by Ms Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EDG) of the state of preparation of the meeting to take place in the EBRD headquarters in London on 3-4 February 2014;
- **Report on the activities of the OECD:** held an exchange of views on the timeline of the presentation of a report on the OCDE to the Assembly and agreed that this issue should be raised in the Committee and that the OECD should be consulted;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** 3-4 February 2014, EBRD, London, United Kingdom.

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

**Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient et le monde arabe  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

30 seats / 30 sièges

**LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES**

**Chairperson / Président**

Lord ANDERSON Donald (SOC) United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-présidente**

Ms DURRIEU Josette (SOC) France

**Members / Membres**

1.	Ms KARAPETYAN Naira (EPP/CD)	Armenia / Arménie
2.	Ms MUTTONEN Christine (SOC)	Austria / Autriche
3.	M. MAHOUX Philippe (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique
4.	Ms KARADJOVA Deniza (SOC)	Bulgaria / Bulgarie
5.	Mr LOUKAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre
6.	Ms VÁHALOVÁ Dana (SOC)	Czech Republic / Rép. Tchèque
7.	Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)	Denmark / Danemark
8.	Ms GUZENINA-RICHARDSON (SOC)	Finland / Finlande
9.	Ms DURRIEU Josette (SOC)	France
10.	Mr LEGENDRE Jacques (EPP/CD)	France
11.	Ms KHIDASHELI Tinatin (ALDE)	Georgia / Géorgie
12.	Mr HAHN Florian (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne
13.	Mr HUNKO Andrej (UEL)	Germany / Allemagne
14.	Mr DRAGASAKIS Ioannis (UEL)	Greece / Grèce
15.	Mr LEYDEN Terry (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande
16.	Ms BERGAMINI Deborah (EPP/CD)	Italy / Italie
17.	Ms ČIGĀNE Lolita (EPP/CD)	Latvia / Lettonie
18.	Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)	Lithuania / Lituanie
19.	Ms ARIB Khadija (SOC)	Netherlands / Pays Bas
20.	Mr KLICH Bogdan (EPP/CD)	Poland / Pologne
21.	Mr MOTA AMARAL João B. (EPP/CD)	Portugal
22.	Mr KORODI Attila (EPP/CD)	Romania / Roumanie
23.	Mr MOROZOV Igor (EDG)	Russian Federation / Fed. de Russie
24.	Ms VUČKOVIĆ Nataša (SOC)	Serbia / Serbie
25.	Ms LUNDGREN Kerstin (ALDE)	Sweden / Suède
26.	Mr REIMANN Maximilian (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse
27.	Mr BAĞIŞ Egemen (EDG)	Turkey / Turquie
28.	Lord ANDERSON Donald (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
29.	Mr HOOD Jim (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
30.	Mr KOX Tiny	Chairperson UEL / Président GUE

**Alternates / Remplaçants**

Ms WURM Gisela (SOC)
Mr Van der MAELEN Dirk (SOC)
Ms KYRIAKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)
Mr ROCHEBLOINE François (EPP/CD)
Mr MIßFELDER Philipp (EPP/CD)
Mr TZAVARAS Konstantinos (EPP/CD)
Mr CESA Lorenzo (EPP/CD)
Mr IWIŃSKI Tadeusz (SOC)
Mr ASSIS Francisco (SOC)
Mr BADEA Viorel Riceard (EPP/CD)
Ms BURYKINA Natalia (EDG)
Ms FIALA Doris (ALDE)
Mr WALTER Robert (EDG)

Ex-officio:

Ms Theodora BAKOYANNIS Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /  
Présidente de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

**Sub-Committee on External Relations  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission des relations extérieures  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

30 seats / 30 sièges

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**Chairperson / Président**

Mr BENEYTO José María (EPP/CD) Spain / Espagne

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président(e)**

...

**Members / Membres**

**Alternates / Remplaçants**

1.	Ms MATEU PI Meritxell (ALDE)	Andorra / Andorre	
2.	Ms WURM Gisela (SOC)	Austria / Autriche	
3.	Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EDG)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)
4.	Mr HENRY Olivier (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique	M. DESEYN Roel (EPP/CD)
5.	Mr RAČAN Ivan (SOC)	Croatia / Croatie	
6.	Mr LOUKAIDES George (UEL)	Cyprus / Chypre	Ms KYRIAKIDES Stella (EPP/CD)
7.	Ms ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna (ALDE)	Czech Republic / Rép. Tchèque	
8.	Mr KAIKKONEN Antti (ALDE)	Finland / Finlande	
9.	Mr MARIANI Thierry (EPP/CD)	France	Mr BOCKEL Jean-Marie (EPP/CD)
10.	Mr HUNKO Andrej (UEL)	Germany / Allemagne	Ms WERNER Katrin (UEL)
11.	Mr TZAVARAS Konstantinos (EPP/CD)	Greece / Grèce	Mr DRAGASAKIS Ioannis (UEL)
12.	Ms MITCHELL Olivia (EPP/CD)	Ireland / Irlande	
13.	Mr GOZI Sandro (SOC)	Italy / Italie	Mr SANTANGELO Vincenzo (NR)
14.	Ms VĚSAITĚ Birutė (SOC)	Lithuania / Lituanie	Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)
15.	Mr PASQUIER Bernard (ALDE)	Monaco	
16.	Mr VUKČEVIĆ Zoran (SOC)	Montenegro / Monténégro	
17.	Mr FRANKEN Hans (EPP/CD)	Netherlands / Pays Bas	
18.	Mr IWIŃSKI Tadeusz (SOC)	Poland / Pologne	
19.	Mr ASSIS Francisco (SOC)	Portugal	Mr MOTA AMARAL João Bosco (EPP/CD)
20.	Ms GUȚU Ana (ALDE)	Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova	
21.	Mr IORDACHE Florin (SOC)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr FLOREA Daniel (SOC)
22.	Mr SLUTSKY Leonid (SOC)	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie	Mr LIKACHEV Vasily (UEL)
23.	Mr ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš (EDG)	Serbia / Serbie	
24.	Mr BENEYTO José María (EPP/CD)	Spain / Espagne	Mr DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio (SOC)
25.	Ms de POURBAIX-LUNDIN (EPP/CD)	Sweden / Suède	Mr von SYDOW Björn (SOC)
26.	Mr BUGNON André (ALDE)	Switzerland / Suisse	Ms MAURY PASQUIER Liliane (SOC)
27.	Mr DENEMEÇ Reha (EDG)	Turkey / Turquie	Mr BAYKAL Deniz (SOC)
28.	Mr MARMAZOV Yevhen (UEL)	Ukraine	Ms OROBETS Lesia (EPP/CD)
29.	Mr HANCOCK Mike (ALDE)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Lord TOMLINSON John (SOC)
30.	Mr GROSS Andreas	Chairperson SOC / Président SOC	

**Ex-officio:**

Ms Theodora BAKOYANNIS Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /  
Présidente de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

**Waiting list / Liste d'attente:**

Mr LEGENDRE Jacques (EPP/CD) France  
Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu (ALDE) Romania / Roumanie  
Ms KARAPETYAN Naira (EPP/CD) Armenia / Arménie

**Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD /  
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /**

**Sous-commission des relations avec l'OCDE et la BERD  
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

30 seats / 30 sièges

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**Chairperson / Président**

Mr ELZINGA Tuur (UEL) Netherlands / Pays Bas

**Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président**

Mr BOCKEL Jean-Marie (EPP/CD) France

**Members / Membres**

**Alternates / Remplaçants**

1.	Ms MUTTONEN Christine (SOC)	Austria / Autriche	
2.	Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EDG)	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Mr HAJIYEV Sabir (SOC)
3.	Mr Van der MAELEN Dirk (SOC)	Belgium / Belgique	Mr HENRY Olivier (SOC)
4.	Ms ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna (NR)	Czech Republic / République Tchèque	Ms VÁHALOVÁ Dana (SOC)
5.	Mr HANSON Margus (ALDE)	Estonia / Estonie	
6.	Mr KAIKKONEN Antti (ALDE)	Finland / Finlande	
7.	Mr BOCKEL Jean-Marie (EPP/CD)	France	Ms DURRIEU Josette (SOC)
8.	Mr BAKRADZE David (EPP/CD)	Georgia / Géorgie	
9.	Mr WELLMANN Karl-Georg (EPP/CD)	Germany / Allemagne	Mr HAHN Florian (EPP/CD)
10.	Ms WERNER Katrin (UEL)	Germany / Allemagne	
11.	Mr PAPADIMOULIS Dimitris (UEL)	Greece / Grèce	
12.	Mr LEYDEN Terry (ALDE)	Ireland / Irlande	
13.	Mr RIGONI Andrea (ALDE)	Italy / Italie	Mr ORELLANA Luis Alberto (NR)
14.	Ms VĚSAITĚ Birute (SOC)	Lithuania / Lituanie	
15.	Mr ADAM Claude (SOC)	Luxembourg	
16.	Mr PASQUIER Bernard (ALDE)	Monaco	
17.	Mr VUKČEVIĆ Zoran (SOC)	Montenegro / Monténégro	
18.	Mr ELZINGA Tuur (UEL)	Netherlands / Pays Bas	
19.	Mr COZMANCIUC Corneliu (ALDE)	Romania / Roumanie	Mr BADEA Viorel-Riceard (EPP/CD)
20.	Mr LIKACHEV Vasily (UEL)	Russian Federation / Fed. de Russie	Mr SLUTSKY Leonid (SOC)
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26.	Ms GILLAN Cheryl (EDG)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr BINLEY Brian (EDG)
27.	Mr HOOD Jim (SOC)	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
28.	Mr GROSS Andreas	Chairperson SOC / Président SOC	
29.	Mr KOX Tiny	Chairperson UEL / Président GUE	
30.			

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Ms Theodora BAKOYANNIS

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