



SECRETARIAT

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Stockholm on 11-12 March 2014

The Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Stockholm on 11-12 March 2014 with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- **on Tuesday 11 March 2014,**

- heard a welcome address by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, and an statement by Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Chairperson of the Swedish Delegation;

as regards:

- **Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of:

- Ms Birgitta Ohlsson, Minister for European Affairs and Democracy of Sweden,
- Mr Hans J. Røsjorde, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway,
- Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Human Rights Advisor and former Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe,
- Mr Christer Mattsson, Head of Department, Municipality of Kungälv, Sweden;

- **Open discussion on current issues**: held an exchange of views on recent developments in Ukraine, took note of the statement issued by the Standing Committee of the Assembly on 7 March 2014 as well as other relevant statements by other Assembly Committees and Council of Europe bodies and agreed to continue the discussion the next morning;

- **on Wednesday 12 March 2014,** as regards:

- **Open discussion on current issues**: continued the discussion on recent developments in Ukraine;

- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): heard a statement from the Rapporteur on his information visit to the country, 24-25 February 2014; approved a report and adopted a draft resolution;

- **Exchange of views with Ms Elisabet Fura**, Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman of Sweden and former Judge at the European Court of Human Rights: held an exchange of views on the role of the Ombudsman in Sweden;

- **Towards a better European democracy: facing the challenges of a federal Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and approved a change in the title from *Challenges of a Federal Europe* to *Towards a better European democracy: facing the challenges of a federal Europe*;
- **Follow-up to the meeting of the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD, London, 4 February 2014**: in the absence of the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, took note of the Synopsis of the meeting held in London on 4 February 2014;
- **Evaluation of the implementation of the reform of the Parliamentary Assembly**: asked those parliamentarians wishing to contribute to give their contributions to the secretariat before the end of the meeting;
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs**: appointed:
  - Mr Jean-Marie BOCKEL (France, EPP/CD) for a report on *The political transition in Tunisia*
  - Ms Josette DURRIEU (France, SOC) for a report on the *Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan*
  - Mr Jordi XUCLÀ (Spain, ALDE) for a report on the *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council*
  - Mr Tuur ELZINGA (Netherlands, UEL) for a report on *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*,

and took note of their statements on the absence of conflict of interest;

- **Work programme**:
  - took note of the draft programme of the meeting which will take place in Athens on 7 May 2014, including the 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 South Programme, with the participation of representatives of parliaments of Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, of the Palestinian National Council, as well as representatives of Egyptian political forces and invited experts;
  - took note of the motion for a resolution on *Pressure exerted by the Russian Federation on Council of Europe member States / Eastern Partnership countries* which was referred to it for information;
- **Next meetings**: took note of the forthcoming meetings as follows:
  - 7-11 April 2014, part-session of the Assembly, Strasbourg
  - 7 May 2014, Athens
  - 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.

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