



SECRETARIAT

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1 July 2014

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 June 2014

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 June 2014, with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Mrs Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair:

#### Monday, 23 June 2014, 14:00 – 15:00, as regards:

- **Election of a Vice-President:** further to the departure of Mr Miloš Aligrudić, elected Mrs Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EDG) by acclamation as 3rd Vice-Chairperson;
- **Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): took note of an information note by the Rapporteur on her visit to Germany from 13 to 15 May 2014 and held a hearing on Anti-Semitism with the participation of Dr Gideon Botsch, Moses Mendelssohn Centre for European Jewish Studies, University of Potsdam, Germany;
- **Call for candidates for report:** called for candidates for the report on the *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* and agreed to proceed to the designation of a Rapporteur at its meeting on Tuesday afternoon;

#### Tuesday, 24 June 2014, 8:30 – 10:00, as regards:

- **Follow-up to Resolution 1984 (2014) on the Request for Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic:** held an exchange of views with Mr Asilbek Jeenbekov, Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament;
- **Open discussion on current issues: Elections to the European Parliament: what consequences?:** held an exchange of views with Mr Michel Rocard, former French Prime Minister, Deputy and Senator, former member of the European Parliament, with the participation of Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Assembly;

#### Tuesday 24 June 2014, 14:00 – 15:30, as regards:

- **The situation in Iraq:** further to the proposal of the Chairperson to the Bureau of the Assembly on Monday 23 June 2014, took note of a draft statement with a view to its adoption by the Bureau;
- **Violence against Christian communities in the Middle East and the South Mediterranean and its consequences** (*Rapporteur: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the Conference held in Athens on 7 May 2014 and on her visit to London from 4 to 6 June 2014;

- **Towards a better European democracy: facing the challenges of a federal Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): took position on the 11 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Appointment of Rapporteur on the Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic**: appointed Ms Tinatin Khidasheli (Georgia, ALDE) as Rapporteur by secret ballot and heard from her a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- **The situation in Kosovo<sup>\*</sup> and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agustín Conde, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the latest developments, including the elections of 8 June 2014 to the Kosovo Assembly, and held an exchange of views;

**Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 14:00 – 15:30, as regards:**

- **The abduction of three Israeli teenagers in Area C of the West Bank**: upon the proposal of the Chairperson, decided to issue a statement on this issue;
- **Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict** (*Rapporteur: Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, Switzerland, SOC*): took position on the 14 amendments to the draft resolution;

**Thursday, 26 June 2014, 8:30 – 10:00, as regards:**

- **Activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tuur Elzinga, Netherlands, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and took note of the approval, by the Bureau, of the proposals on the modalities of the OECD debates within the Enlarged Assembly;
- **Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2013-2014** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Cheryl Gillan, United Kingdom, EDG*): took note of an introductory memorandum prepared by an expert and heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
- **Situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EDG*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, decided to postpone this item to one of its next meetings;
- **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 3-4 November 2014) From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?:**

- appointed the following members to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau:

Mr Deniz **BAYKAL** (Turkey, SOC)  
Mr Reha **DEMENEÇ** (Turkey, EDG)  
Mrs Cheryl **GILLAN** (United Kingdom, EDG)  
Mr Andreas **GROSS** (Switzerland, SOC)  
Mr João Bosco **MOTA AMARAL** (Portugal, EPP/CD)  
Mr Andrea **RIGONI** (Italy, ALDE)  
Mr Robert **WALTER** (United Kingdom, EDG)  
Mr Jordi **XUCLÀ** (Spain, ALDE);

- at the request of Lord John Tomlinson (United Kingdom, SOC), agreed to proceed to an evaluation of the World Forum for Democracy 2014;

- **Work programme:**

- motion for a resolution referred to the Committee for information on **Parliamentary co-operation with Kazakhstan**: further to a proposal by Mr Bernd Fabritius (Germany, EPP/CD) – replacing Mr Axel E. Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD) in virtue of Article 46.7. of the Rules of Procedure – unanimously decided to ask the Bureau to reconsider its previous decision and refer the motion to the Committee for report;

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\* 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.

- took note that the **Committee meeting on 4-5 September 2014** would take place in the **Sénat, Palais du Luxembourg, Paris 6<sup>th</sup>** and the **Committee meeting on 3 November 2014** would take place in **Strasbourg**;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
  - Ms Nantia Valavani (Greece, UEL) becomes full member of the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD further to the resignation of Mr Dimitrios Papadimoulis (Greece, UEL) and Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD) becomes alternate to Mr Karl-Georg Wellman (Germany, EPP/CD) in place of Mr Florian Hahn (Germany, EPP/CD);
  - Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD) becomes full member of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World in place of Mr Florian Hahn (Germany, EPP/CD);
  - Mr João Bosco Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD) becomes full member (instead of alternate) of the Sub-Committee on External Relations following the departure of Mr Francisco Assis (Portugal, SOC) and Ms Aleksandra Djurović (Serbia, EPP/CD) replaces Mr Miloš Aligrudić (Serbia, EDG) following his departure from the delegation;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** approved the request by Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE), Rapporteur on the *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council*, to carry out a fact-finding visit to the Palestinian Territories by the end of 2014, in the framework of the preparation of his report, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings as follows:
  - 4-5 September 2014, **Sénat, Palais du Luxembourg, Paris 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - 29 September – 3 October 2014, part-session of the Assembly, Strasbourg
  - 3 November 2014 (from 9am to 1pm), **Strasbourg**
  - 8-9 December 2014, Paris.

D. Chatzivassiliou, J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko, S. Arzilli

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General, Director 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