



SECRETARIAT

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9 September 2014

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris from 4 to 5 September 2014

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris (Room Clemenceau, Sénat) from 4 to 5 September 2014, with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Mrs Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair:

Thursday 4 September 2014, 9.30 am to 1 pm

- heard a welcome address by Ms Bariza Khiari, Vice-President of the French Sénat;

as regards:

- **Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): approved a report, including a change in the title from “Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia” to “Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism”, amended and adopted unanimously a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): considered an information note by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Morocco from 7 to 10 July 2014, held an exchange of views and decided to declassify the information note;
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tinatin Khidasheli, Georgia, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views;
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): considered an information note by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Jordan from 25 to 26 March 2014, held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Mustafa Al Hamarneh, Mr Yousef Al Qarneh and Ms Tamam Alryati, members of the parliamentary delegation of the Jordanian House of Representatives;

Thursday 4 September 2014, 2.30 pm to 6 pm, as regards:

- **Situation in the Middle East**: held an exchange of views, organised by the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World (*Chairperson: Lord Donald Anderson, United Kingdom, SOC*) with the participation of Ms Rosemary Hollis, Professor of Middle East Policy Studies at City University, London, and Director of the Olive Tree Programme, and Mr Daniel Levy, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations; welcomed an invitation by the Palestinian delegation for a fact-finding visit to the region and decided to come back to this matter at its next meeting;

- **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 situation of Christian communities in Syria and Iraq and decided to request to the Bureau of the Assembly that a debate be held under urgent procedure on *Threats posed by the 'Islamic State' (IS) and violence against Christians and other religious communities*, during the 4th part-session 2014 of the Assembly;
- **The situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;

Friday 5 September 2014, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, as regards:

- **Call for candidates for report**: called for candidates for the report on *Political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine* and agreed to proceed to the designation of a Rapporteur during the 4th part-session 2014 of the Assembly;
- **Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2013-2014** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Cheryl Gillan, United Kingdom, EDG*): approved a report, amended and adopted unanimously a draft resolution;
- **The implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kerstin Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, followed by a statement by Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tuur Elzinga, Netherlands, UEL*): held an exchange of views, organised by the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD (*Chairperson: Mr Tuur Elzinga, Netherlands, UEL*), with the participation of Mrs Gabriela Ramos, OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20, with a view to preparing the debate on the report by the Secretary General of the OECD to be held during the 4th part-session 2014 of the Assembly;
- **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 3-4 November 2014) From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?:** heard an update from the Secretariat of the Committee on the preparation of the Forum;
- **Authorisations by the Committee**: approved the following requests of:
 - Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC), Rapporteur on the *Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan*, to carry out a further fact-finding visit to Jordan by the end of 2014, in the framework of the preparation of her report, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly;
 - Ms Tinatin Khidasheli (Georgia, ALDE), Rapporteur on the *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*, to carry out a fact-finding visit to the Kyrgyz Republic by the end of 2014, in the framework of the preparation of her report, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly;
 - Ms Tinatin Khidasheli (Georgia, ALDE) and Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) (the latter with no cost for the Assembly) to participate as keynote speakers in round table discussions of the Lisbon Forum 2014 on *Electoral processes and democratic consolidation in the countries of the southern Mediterranean*, which will take place in Lisbon on 15-16 September 2014;
- **Changes in Sub-Committees**: appointed Ms Hermine Naghdalyan (Armenia, EDG) as full member of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World as well as of the Sub-Committee on External Relations, and appointed Ms Naira Karapetyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) her alternate in both Sub-Committees;

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

- 29 September – 3 October 2014, 4th part-session of the Assembly, Strasbourg
- 3 November 2014 (from 9am to 1pm), **Strasbourg**
- 8 December 2014, **Paris, Sénat (tbc)**.

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