



SECRETARIAT

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6 October 2014

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2014

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2014, with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Mr Mike Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE) and Mr Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC) in the Chair:

Monday, 29 September 2014, 14:00 – 15:00, as regards:

- **Threats against humanity posed by the terrorist group known as “IS”: violence against Christians and other religious or ethnic communities** (*Rapporteur: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): approved a change in the title which was previously “*Threats posed by the ‘Islamic State’ (IS) and violence against humanity*”; held a hearing with the participation of Mr Gert Westerveen, Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the European Institutions in Strasbourg, and Mr Salih Muslim Muhammad, Chairman of the Democratic Union Party of Syria;

Tuesday, 30 September 2014, 8:30 – 10:00, as regards:

- **Call for candidates for report:**
 - called for candidates for the reports on the *Political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine*; on the *Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan* (title recommended by the Bureau); and on *Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress*; agreed to proceed to the designation of three Rapporteurs at its meeting on Wednesday afternoon;
 - agreed to take a decision on the title recommended by the Bureau, *Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan*, at its meeting on Wednesday afternoon;
- **Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): took position on the 10 amendments to the draft resolution and on the 3 amendments to the draft recommendation;
- **Enlarged Debate on the Activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**: held an exchange of views with delegations of the national Parliaments of OECD member States which are not members of the Council of Europe: Chile, Israel, Japan, Korea, and Mexico;

Tuesday, 30 September 2014, 14:00 – 15:00, as regards:

- **Threats against humanity posed by the terrorist group known as “IS”: violence against Christians and other religious or ethnic communities** (*Rapporteur: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;

Wednesday, 1 October 2014, 14:00 – 15:30, as regards:

– **Future Work:**

- appointed Ms Kristýna Zeličková (Czech Republic, ALDE) as Rapporteur on the *Political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine* and heard from her a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- appointed Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC) as Rapporteur on *Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- appointed Mr Robert Walter (United Kingdom, EC) as Rapporteur on *Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest; rejected a proposal to take no further action on the reference and rejected a proposal for a change of title to the report;

- **External Relations:** held an exchange of views with Ambassador Manuel Jacoangeli, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) of the Committee of Ministers; heard a presentation by Mr Zoltan Taubner, Director of the Directorate of External Relations of the Council of Europe, on a draft resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe, to be tabled at the 69th session of the UN general Assembly later this year; heard a statement by Mr José-Maria Beneyto (Spain, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on External Relations, and agreed to a meeting of the Sub-Committee at the United Nations in New York from 19 to 21 November 2014, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly*;

- **Report on the meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World of 30 September 2014:** heard a statement by Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, and agreed to a visit of the Sub-Committee to Israel and the Palestinian Territories from 28 November to 1 December 2014, on the basis of an invitation by the Palestinian Delegation, and subject to the receipt of an invitation by the Israeli Delegation as well as the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly*;

Thursday, 2 October 2014, 8:30 – 10:00, as regards:

- **Threats against humanity posed by the terrorist group known as “IS”: violence against Christians and other religious or ethnic communities** (*Rapporteur: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): took position on 4 amendments to the draft resolution and 1 amendment to the draft recommendation; also took position on an oral amendment from the Rapporteur to the draft resolution;

- **Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2013-2014** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Cheryl Gillan, United Kingdom, EC*): took note that no amendment had been tabled;

- **Situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Budapest on 17-19 June 2014, and agreed to his proposal to hold an exchange of views with the Hungarian delegation at one of its next meetings;

- **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 3-4 November 2014):** took note of the updated programme of the Forum and appointed the following additional members to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau:

- Lord Donald ANDERSON (United Kingdom, SOC),
- Mr Brian BINLEY (United Kingdom, EC),
- Mr Mike HANCOCK (United Kingdom, ALDE),
- Mr Jacob LUND (Denmark, SOC),

- Ms Marietta DE POURBAIX-LUNDIN (Sweden, EPP/CD),
 - Mr René ROUQUET (France, SOC),
 - Ms Kristýna ZELIENKOVÁ (Czech Republic, ALDE);
- **Work programme:** took note:
- of the motion for a resolution referred to the Committee for information on *The application of sanctions against Armenia for its armed occupation of Azerbaijani territories*;
 - of the motion for a resolution referred to the Committee for information on *Parliamentary co-operation with Kazakhstan*;
- **Changes in the composition of Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
- Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World

Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) becomes an ex-officio member in his capacity as Chairperson of the Group;

Ms Ana Catarina Mendonça (Portugal, SOC) becomes alternate to Mr Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD) following the departure of Francisco Assis (Portugal, SOC) from the delegation;
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations

Ms Ana Catarina Mendonça (Portugal, SOC) becomes member of the Sub-Committee for the same reason (Mr João B. Mota Amaral remains the alternate member);
- **Authorisations by the Committee:**
- approved the request by Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), Rapporteur on the *Situation in Belarus*, to participate in the Nordic Council/Baltic Assembly seminar on Belarus in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 15 October 2014, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
 - approved the request by Mr Robert Walter (United Kingdom, EC), Rapporteur on the *Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan*, to carry out a fact-finding mission to the region in the framework of the preparation of his report;
 - approved the request by Ms Kristýna Zelienková (Czech Republic, ALDE), Rapporteur on the *Political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine*, to carry out a fact-finding mission to Ukraine and Brussels in the framework of the preparation of her report;
- **Other business:** took note of, and endorsed, a statement drafted by Mr Mike Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE) on the situation in Ashraf and Liberty Camps in Iraq;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings as follows:
- End of year 2014:
- 3 November 2014 (from 9am to 1pm), Strasbourg (**tbc**)
 - 8 December 2014, **Paris, Sénat**
- Dates for 2015 (dates and place to be confirmed):
- 18 March 2015,
 - 29 May 2015,
 - 4 September 2015,
 - 4 November 2015,
 - 8 December 2015.

The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World** (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), meeting in Strasbourg, on 30 September 2014, with Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Visit to the Middle-East:** took note that a formal invitation from the Palestinian Delegation had been sent to the Sub-Committee and that an invitation was under preparation by the Israeli Delegation; decided that the dates retained were 28 November to 1st December 2014, subject to the agreement of the Committee and subsequent approval by the Bureau of the Assembly^{*}; took note that the focus would be on the situation in Gaza, the recent events during the summer of 2014, the present situation and the prospects for the future and that it would also deal with the Palestinian reconciliation and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process; held an exchange of views with the Israeli and Palestinian delegations and took note of proposals for the preparation of the programme;
- **The situation in Gaza:** heard statements by the Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

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

^{*} The Bureau of the Assembly gave its authorisation on 3 October 2014.