



SECRETARIAT

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2 October 2015

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 28 to 30 September 2015

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 28 to 30 September 2015, with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Mr Karl Gardarsson (Iceland, ALDE) and Mr Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC) in the Chair,

- **on Monday 28 September 2015 at 2 pm**, as regards:
 - **The situation in Iran**: decided to reconstitute the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on Iran, to be composed of the members of the bureaus of the Committee and of its Sub-Committees on the Middle East and the Arab World and on External Relations, and the Rapporteur on *The situation in Iran*, with the necessary adjustments in its composition so that all political groups are represented; agreed that the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee be competent to deal with the recent developments in Iran and the extent to which they may influence “democratic stability” and “deep/soft security in Europe”, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee; and agreed that the Sub-Committee would visit Iran (subject to receiving an invitation from the Iranian authorities and to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur following his participation in the pre-electoral *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau for the observation of the presidential election in Belarus (7-10 September 2015);
 - **Foreign fighters in Syria** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dirk Van der Maelen, Belgium, SOC*): considered a preliminary memorandum and took note of the Rapporteur’s intention to present a draft report at the Committee’s meeting in December 2015;
- **on Tuesday 29 September 2015 at 2 pm**, as regards:
 - **Enlarged debate on The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2014-2015** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tuur Elzinga, Netherlands, UEL*), with the participation of delegations of national parliaments of OECD member States which are not members of the Council of Europe: took position on the amendment to the draft resolution and held an exchange of views with Ms Midori Ishii, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan;
 - **The political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kristýna Zeličková, Czech Republic, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Ukraine (7-11 September 2015) and held an exchange of views;

- **Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Robert Walter, United Kingdom, EC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan (15-16 September 2015) and the state of preparation of his report and, following an exchange of views, took note of the Rapporteur's intention to present a draft report at the next meeting of the Committee;
- **The situation in Kosovo* and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agustín Conde, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Belgrade (24-25 August 2015) and his forthcoming visit to Pristina (5-6 October 2015) and held an exchange of views with the participation of an elected representative of the Assembly of Kosovo;
- **on Wednesday 30 September 2015 at 2.30 pm, as regards:**
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs:**
 - appointed Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Situation in Lebanon and challenges for regional stability and European security* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
 - appointed Mr Atilla Korodi (Romania, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Libya's future between the threats of terrorism and a democratic prospect security* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- **Call for candidates for report:** called for candidates for report on *The political transition in Tunisia*;
- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan** (*Rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Jordan (13-16 September 2015) and, following an exchange of views with Mr Mustapha Ibrahim Al Hamarneh, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, took note of the Rapporteur's intention to present a draft report at the Committee's meeting in December 2015;
- **Establishing genuine parliamentary dialogue with Algeria** (*Rapporteur: Mr René Rouquet, France, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with members of the Parliament of Algeria;
- **Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): following a statement by the Rapporteur, approved an outline for report;
- **Sub-Committee on External Relations:** heard a statement by Mr André Bugnon (Switzerland, ALDE), Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, and agreed that its next meeting be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 12-13 November 2015, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **Proceedings of the joint-meeting on Current political challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean region:** took note of the proceedings of the meeting held in Rome, Italy, on 5 June 2015;
- **Changes in the composition of Sub-Committees:** approved the following change:
 - Mr Jürgen Hardt (Germany, EPP/CD) becomes alternate of Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD)

* 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.

– **Authorisations by the Committee:**

- authorised Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Ukraine in the framework of the preparation of his report on *Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress*;
- authorised Mr Agustín Conde (Spain, EPP/CD) to carry out a further fact-finding visit to Kosovo* in 2015 in the framework of the preparation of his report on *The situation in Kosovo* and the role of the Council of Europe*;

– **Other business:**

- heard a statement from Mr Bernard Sabella, Chairperson of the Palestinian partner for Democracy delegation, on the situation at the Haram al-Sharif compound; held an exchange of views and took note of the fact that the President of the Assembly would write to the Speaker of the Knesset on this issue;
- proposed the following members to be appointed to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the World Forum for Democracy on *Freedom vs control: For a democratic response* (Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015):
 - Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD)
 - Mr René Rouquet (France, SOC) ;

– **Next meetings:** confirmed forthcoming meetings as follows:

- 4 November 2015, Paris (CoE Office)
- 7 December 2015, Brussels (Senate).

D. Chatzivassiliou, J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko, G. Faggiani

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