

AS/Pro (2016) CB 06  
6 December 2016

## To the members of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 2 December 2016

The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, meeting in Paris on 2 December 2016 with Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Challenges to the co-operation of member States with the Assembly as regards the free movement of Assembly members:** held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised information memorandum and invited its Chairperson to prepare a draft opinion to the Bureau of the Assembly for consideration at its next meeting;
- **Introduction of sanctions against parliamentarians:** took note of the Committee of Ministers' reply to Assembly Recommendation 2083 (2016);
- **Parliamentary immunity: challenges to the scope of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by members of the Parliamentary Assembly :** took note of the opinion adopted by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) at its 108<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session (Venice, 14-15 October 2016) on "Turkey – the suspension of the second paragraph of article 83 of the constitution (parliamentary inviolability)", following a presentation by Mr Schnutz Rudolf Dürr, Head of the Constitutional Justice Division, secretariat of the Venice Commission;
- **Work programme:** held an exchange of views on the issue of replies given by the Committee of Ministers to written questions from Assembly members, appointed Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) rapporteur on "*The need to enable the Committee of Ministers to give answers to the Assembly even in the absence of a consensus*" and heard from him a declaration on the absence of any conflict of interest;
- **Other business:** held an exchange of views on the European Parliament resolution of 25 October 2016 on the "*Establishment of an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights*" and agreed to consider a draft motion for a resolution on this subject at its next meeting;
- **Defending the acquis of the Council of Europe: preserving 65 years of successful intergovernmental co-operation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): held a roundtable with the participation of:
  - Professor Katja Ziegler, Professor of international law, Director of the Centre of European Law and Internationalisation (CELI), University of Leicester;
  - Mr Rolf Alter, Director of Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD;
  - Mr Jörg Polakiewicz, Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law, Legal counsellor of the Council of Europe;
  - Mr Mark Entin, Head of Department of European law, Vice-president of Russian Association of European studies and International law, MGIMO University, Moscow;

– **Next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2017 1<sup>st</sup> part-session (23-27 January 2017).

Valérie Clamer, Kateryna Gayevska

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