

AS/Pro (2018) CB 03  
26 April 2018

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 24, 25 and 26 April 2018

The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, meeting in Strasbourg on 24, 25 and 26 April 2018, with Ms Petra De Sutter (Belgium, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Follow-up to the report of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly (Urgent debate):**
  - . appointed Ms Petra De Sutter rapporteur and held an exchange of views on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Independent Investigation Body on the Assembly's general operating framework and ethical framework and to the conclusions relating to the behaviour of individual Assembly's members and former members;
  - . approved a report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
  - . took note of the opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and took position on 26 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Sub-Committee on ethics:** held an exchange of views on the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee;
- **Declaration of interests of Parliamentary Assembly members (implementation of paragraph 17 of the Code of conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly):** postponed to its next meeting the consideration of a draft explanatory note to the declaration of interests of the members of the Assembly;
- **Analysis of the use made by the Assembly's political groups of their allocations for 2017 (General rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL):** postponed to its next meeting the consideration of a draft communication to the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **Report of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly: follow-up to the conclusions relating to the individual behaviour of Assembly's members (in camera):** heard the four invited members and, after deliberation, took a decision, in accordance with the code of conduct of the members of the Parliamentary Assembly, for three of them (see decision appended);
- **Next meetings:**
  - . in Paris (Bureau of the Council of Europe), on 15 May 2018, at 9.30 am
  - . in Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session (25-29 June 2018)

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**The Sub-Committee on Ethics**, meeting in Strasbourg on 24 April 2018, with Ms Petra De Sutter (Belgium, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee***: elected, by acclamation, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom, EC), Chairperson;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting***: left it to the chairperson to convene its next meeting.

Valérie Clamer

- cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
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

## **Appendix - Decision of the committee on the follow-up to the recommendations and conclusions of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly relating to the behaviour of individual Assembly members and former members mentioned in its report**

### **First hearing – Wednesday 25 April 2018 (6-10.30 pm)**

1. Pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Code of Conduct of members of the Parliamentary Assembly (paragraphs 20 et seq.), the Committee on Rules of Procedure held its first hearing and invited the following members to attend: Mr Tiny Kox, Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Mr Stefan Schennach, Mr Samad Seyidov.

2. The committee heard all four members (in alphabetical order).

– *Case of Mr Tiny Kox*

3. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly,<sup>1</sup> the committee found that Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) has not failed to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct by not responding to IBAC's request for the submission of a written statement.

– *Case of Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten*

4. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly,<sup>1</sup> the committee found that Ms Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) has not failed to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct by not responding to IBAC's request for the submission of a written statement.

– *Case of Mr Stefan Schennach*

5. In accordance with paragraph 24 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly,<sup>2</sup> the committee found with regard to Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) that there has been a minor violation of the Code of Conduct by his not complying with the provisions of paragraph 1.1.4 of the Code of Conduct for rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly ("undertaking to refrain from any act which may cast doubt on their neutrality").

– *Case of Mr Samad Seyidov*

6. The committee decided to postpone its decision to its next meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 23 of the Code of conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly: "If the committee finds that the allegations have no basis, it will inform the complainants and the member concerned".

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 24 of the Code of conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly: "If the committee finds that there has been a minor violation of the code of conduct, owing to negligence for example, it will inform the member concerned and ask him or her to take the necessary steps. The committee shall decide whether the decision shall be published on the Assembly's website".