



SECRETARIAT

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16 December 2019

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 12 December 2019

The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, meeting in Paris on 12 December 2019, with Mr Indrek Saar (Estonia, SOC), in the Chair, as regards:

– **Challenge on procedural grounds of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of the Russian delegation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD*):

. considered the opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) on the compliance with Council of Europe and other international standards of the inclusion of a not internationally recognised territory into a nationwide constituency for parliamentary elections, and held an exchange of views with Mr Richard Barrett, Member of the Venice Commission in respect of Ireland;

. declassified the minutes of the hearing held on 2 October 2019 on “Rule 7 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure on the challenge, on procedural grounds, of credentials submitted by national delegations: taking into account restrictive measures adopted by the European Union concerning individuals”;

. asked its rapporteur to prepare an information memorandum summarising the conclusions of the experts’ opinions requested by the committee, for discussion at its next meeting;

– **Assessment of the conformity of the decision-making processes developed by committees with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly**: considered a draft opinion to the Bureau of the Assembly prepared by its Chairperson, and, following an exchange of views, decided to postpone its approval to its next meeting;

– **Setting minimum standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Sir Edward Leigh, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): in the absence of the rapporteur for opinion, postponed to its next meeting the consideration of a draft opinion to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;

– **Revision of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Parliamentary Assembly in accordance with §13.2 of Resolution 2274 (2019) on “Promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment”** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and authorised her to carry out a fact-finding visit to Canada in April 2020 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly and the availability of funds);

– **Other business**: held an exchange of views on women’s representation in the Assembly, especially in some committees, and possible changes in regulatory provisions which apply in this area;

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– **Next meetings:**

- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1st part-session (27-31 January 2020);
- Paris, Office of the Council of Europe (4 March 2020) (*to be confirmed*).

Valérie Clamer

- cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors 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