

SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2024) CB 6

1 July 2024

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 25 to 27 June 2024

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg from 25 to 27 June 2024, with Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), 1st Vice-Chairperson, Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), 2nd Vice-Chairperson, and then Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, EC/DA), 3rd Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Tuesday 25 June 2024, 08:30**, as regards:
 - ***Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly*** (*rapporteur: Mr Anastasios Chatzivasileiou, Greece, EPP/CD*): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution in addition to those tabled by the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, on which it had already taken unanimously position in favour;
 - ***Strengthening democracy through participatory and deliberative processes*** (*rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution;
 - ***Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress*** (*rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL*): approved the draft opinion, including 5 amendments to the draft resolution and 5 amendments to the draft recommendation adopted by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
 - ***European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti***: appointed Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, EC/DA) and Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD) to become members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti (Auschwitz, Poland, 2 August 2024);
 - ***Participation in a conference on “Artificial Intelligence and Democracy”***: decided to propose to the Bureau to set up an ad hoc Committee to participate in the conference on *Artificial Intelligence and Democracy* (Oslo, 21 October 2024), and subject to the establishment of this ad hoc committee, took note of expressions of interest to become members;
 - ***World Forum for Democracy***: appointed Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Latvia, EPP/CD) and Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) to become members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2024);
- **on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at 14:00**, holding a joint meeting with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), as regards:
 - ***Strengthening mechanisms for early warning on challenges to democratic security***: held a hearing with the participation of Ambassador Svetlana Geleva, Permanent Representative of North Macedonia, Chairperson of the Rapporteur Group on Democracy of the Committee of Ministers (GR-DEM), and Ms Seema Shah, Head of Democracy Analysis team, International IDEA (online);

- **on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at 15:00**, as regards:
 - **Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe** (*rapporteur: Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Helsinki on 18 June 2024;
 - **Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy** (*rapporteur: Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, EC/DA*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
- **on Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - **The role of sanctions in countering the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Berlin on 12-13 June 2024 and took position on 13 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Elections in times of crisis** (*rapporteur: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE*): considered an outline for a report;
 - **Work programme:**
 - following a vote, appointed Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) as General Rapporteur on Russian democratic forces;
 - appointed, by acclamation, Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC) as General Rapporteur for a Democratic Belarus;

and heard from them declarations on absence of conflict of interest;
- **on Thursday 27 June 2024 at 08:30**, as regards:
 - **Call for Varosha's return to its lawful inhabitants** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): took position on nine amendments and decided to table four sub-amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **The situation in Belarus** (*rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Ms Volha Aleinik, International Secretary, Belarusian Christian Democracy, Mr Anatol Liabedzka, Adviser to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on constitutional reform and parliamentary co-operation, United Civil Party, and Mr Vadzim Saranchukou, Acting Chairman, Belarusian Popular Front Party;
 - **Work programme:** requested extensions for the following references:
 - The need for renewed, effective and inclusive multilateralism (*rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*)
 - The Parliamentary Assembly should support Kazakhstan to continue its democratic reforms (*rapporteur: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EC/DA*)
 - Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe (*rapporteur: Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*)
 - **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the changes as indicated in bold in the Appendix;
 - **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - 9 September 2024, Paris
 - October part-session (30 September - 4 October 2024), Strasbourg
 - 11 December 2024, Paris
- **on Thursday 27 June 2024 at 14:00**, holding a joint meeting with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, as regards:
 - **Examining the legitimacy and legality of the ad hominem term-limit waiver for the incumbent President of the Russian Federation**, held a hearing with the participation of Ms Veronika Bílková, Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Co-Rapporteur of the interim opinion on constitutional amendments and the procedure for their adoption in the Russian Federation, adopted by the Venice Commission, Dr. Gleb Bogush, Expert in public

international law / Research Fellow, Cologne University, Germany, and Mr Mikhail Kasyanov, former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday 24 June 2024, with Mr Alexis Tsipras (Greece, UEL) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Vice-Chairperson:** elected Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) by acclamation;
- **The importance of the Prespa Agreement and the future of the European integration of the Western Balkans:** held a hearing with the participation of Mr Konstantinos Filis, Professor and Director of the American College of Greece (ACG) Institute of Global Affairs, and Mr Kristijan Fidanovski, Economist at the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies;
- **Future work:** heard a statement by its Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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The **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday 24 June 2024, with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC), in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Vice-Chairperson:** elected Mr Serhii Soboliev (Ukraine, EPP/CD), by acclamation;
- **Recent developments in the Middle East: Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel and Israel's response:** heard a statement by the rapporteur for follow-up, also in his capacity as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, reporting back on his visit to the Middle East of 17-21 June 2024, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Pavel Chevtchenko, Cesare Colombo, John Dorber

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

**Sub-Committee on External Relations
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**Sous-commission des relations extérieures
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Présidente

Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC) France

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président-e

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Full Members / Membres titulaires

Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (EPP/CD) | Armenia / Arménie | Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD) |
| 2. Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD) | Austria / Autriche | |
| 3. Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL) | Cyprus / Chypre | |
| 4. Mr BOUCHEZ Georges-Louis (ALDE) | Belgium / Belgique | Mr DAEMS Rik (ALDE) |
| 5. Mr BENEŠÍK Ondřej (EPP/CD) | Czechia/ Tchéquie | |
| 6. Mr KILJUNEN Kimmo (SOC) | Finland / Finlande | |
| 7. Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC) | France | M. MARIE Didier (SOC) |
| 8. Mr FUNKE Fabian (SOC) | Germany / Allemagne | Ms DAĞDELEN Sevim (UEL) |
| 9. Ms BAKOYANNIS Dora (EPP/CD) | Greece / Grèce | Mr CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios (EPP/CD) |
| 10. Mr NÉMETH Zsolt (EC/DA) | Hungary / Hongrie | |
| 11. Mr TROY Robert (ALDE) | Ireland / Irlande | Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE) |
| 12. Ms GARDINI Elisabetta (EC/DA) | Italy / Italie | |
| 13. Mrs KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA Zanda (EPP/CD) | Latvia / Lettonie | |
| 14. Mr LYDEKĀ Arminas (ALDE) | Lithuania / Lituanie | Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD) |
| 15. Mr BRICO Christophe (EPP/CD) | Monaco | |
| 16. Mr CRUCHTEN Yves (SOC) | Luxembourg | |
| 17. Ms VUKIĆEVIĆ Maja (NR) | Montenegro / Monténégro | Mr KONATAR Miloš (SOC) |
| 18. Mr TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof (EPP/CD) | Poland / Pologne | |
| 19. Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC) | Portugal | |
| 20. Mr STROE Ionuț-Marian (EPP/CD) | Romania / Roumanie | Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC) |
| 21. Ms PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana (EPP/CD) | Serbia / Serbie | |
| 22. Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC) | Spain / Espagne | Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD) |
| 23. Ms ÅBERG Boriána (EPP/CD) | Sweden / Suède | |
| 24. Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC) | Switzerland / Suisse | M. COTTIER Damien (ALDE) |
| 25. Mr TÜRKES Yıldırım Tuğrul (NR) | Türkiye | Mr TAN Namık (SOC) |
| 26. Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD) | Ukraine | Mr KAMELCHUK Yuriy (EPP/CD) |
| 27. Lord BLENCATHRA David (EC/DA) | United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni | |
| 28. | | |
| 29. | | |

Ex officio: M. Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE) Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie