



SECRETARIAT

AS/Pol (2023) CB 02

22 March 2023

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 20 March 2023

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 20 March 2023, with Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EC/DA), Chairperson, and Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Second Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges*** (former rapporteur: Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE): heard a statement by Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, on the preparations for the Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe, followed by an exchange of views;
- ***The role of the Council of Europe in preventing human suffering resulting from international armed conflicts: different stages of conflict prevention and best practices to be employed*** (rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE): held a hearing with the online participation of Ms Katariina Leinonen, Deputy Head of Division, Service of Deputy Secretary General of the Common Security and Defence Policy and Crisis Response, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels; and considered a preliminary draft report;
- ***Political consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine*** (rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD): held a hearing with the online participation of Mr Hugo Antonio Acha, Senior Research Fellow, Center for a Secure Free Society (SFS) and Director of Research and Outreach for the Foundation for Human Rights in Cuba (FHRC), Washington, and considered an outline report;
- ***The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*** (rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL): took note of the programme of the meeting of the OECD Global Parliamentary Network (4-5 April 2023, Paris); was informed that the Bureau would set up an *ad hoc* committee to participate in this event and appointed the following members to take part:
 - Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC)
 - Mr George Katrougalos (Greece, UEL)
 - Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro (Spain, EPP/CD)
 - Mr Ahmet Yıldız (Türkiye, NR);
- ***Call for a national political reform process in Belarus*** (rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC): took note of the letter from the rapporteur to the Chairperson; agreed to hold a hearing on "Recent political developments in Belarus" during the April part-session and to invite the following representatives of the Belarusian democratic political forces:
 - Mr Yury Hubarevich, Chairperson, The Movement "For Freedom"
 - Mr Aleh Miatselitsa, "Our party"
 - Mr Yauheni Vilski, first Deputy Chairman, Belarusian Social Democratic Party "Narodnaya Hramada";
- ***Recent developments in Libya and in the Middle East: what consequences for Europe?***: heard a statement by Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC); held an exchange of views; and invited the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and Arab World to hold a hearing with the participation of Mr Rawhi Fattouh, Speaker of the Palestinian National Council, and a representative of the Knesset, during the April part-session;

- **Safeguarding peace and stability in the East Mediterranean Sea** (*rapporteur: Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): considered a revised introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views;
- **Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans** (*former rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): heard a follow-up statement by the former rapporteur; took note of the initiative to hold a conference in Skopje on 20 October 2023, in co-operation with the parliamentary delegation of North Macedonia; decided to set up an ad hoc sub-committee to take part in the conference (subject to the Bureau authorisation); and invited members to put forward their candidatures with a view to approving the composition at one of its forthcoming meetings, taking note that members of the Assembly of Kosovo* would also be invited to participate in the conference;
- **Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America** (*rapporteur: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones, Spain, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Meeting of the Committee in Seville, Spain**: took note of the draft programme and the practical information;
- **Information on ongoing work in the electoral field:**
 - heard a debriefing from Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro (Spain, EPP/CD) on the meeting of Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission (CDE) held on 9 March 2023,
 - took note of the programme of the Parliamentary conference – Elections in times of crisis (Bern, 9-10 May 2023);
- **Work programme:**
 - **Call for candidates for rapporteurs:** called for candidates for the following:
Reports:
 - The situation in Iran
 - Promoting the revised Code of Good Practice on Referendums**Opinion:**
 - Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress;
 - **Reference to be taken into account in a report under preparation:** took note of the reference on “Preventing abuse of the right to veto in the Security Council: a perspective by the member States of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe” to be taken into account in the preparation of the report “The need for renewed, effective and inclusive Multilateralism” (*rapporteur: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*);
- **Changes to membership in Sub-Committees:** approved the changes to membership in the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World and in the Sub-Committee on Democracy (see Appendix);
- **Meetings in 2023:** took note of the meetings in 2023 to be held as follows:
 - April part-session (24-28 April 2023), Strasbourg
 - 11-12 May 2023, Seville (Spain)
 - June part-session (19-23 June 2023), Strasbourg
 - 12-13 September 2023, Paris
 - October part-session (9-13 October 2023), Strasbourg
 - 12 December 2023, Paris

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* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

The **Sub-Committee on Democracy** meeting in Paris on Monday 20 March 2023, with first Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA), oldest member present, and then Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:** re-elected, by acclamation, Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), Chairperson, and Ms Ingjerd Schou (Norway, EPP/CD), Vice-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** meeting in Paris on Monday 20 March 2023, with Mr John Howell (EC/DA, United Kingdom), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau:** elected, by acclamation, Mr Reinhold Lopatka (Austria, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and Mr Mehmet Mehdi Eker (Türkiye, NR), Vice-Chairperson;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Ágnes Kertész, Pavel Chevtchenko, John Dorber

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

APPENDIX

Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient et le monde arabe de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

29 seats / 29 sièges

LIST OF MEMBERS / LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chairperson / Président·e

Mr Reinhold Lopatka (Austria, EPP/CD)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président·e

Mr Mehmet Mehdi Eker (Türkiye, NR)

Full Members / Titulaires

1. Mr VARDANYAN Vladimir (EPP/CD)
2. Mr LOPATKA Reinhold (EPP/CD)
3. Mr MOLLAZADA Asim (EC/DA)
4. Mr MOUTQUIN Simon (SOC)
5. Mr LOUCAIDES George (UEL)
6. Mr JENSEN Mogens (SOC)
7. M. KERN Claude (ALDE)
8. Mr LUCKS Max (SOC)
9. Mr KATROUGALOS George (UEL)
10. Ms O'LOUGHLIN Fiona (ALDE)
11. Mr ZINGERIS Emanuelis (EPP/CD)
12. Mr SAID Chris (EPP/CD)
13. Mr MULARCZYK Arkadiusz (EC/DA)
14. Ms ESTRELA Edite (SOC)
15. Mr CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC)
16. Mr NICOLINI Marco (UEL)
17. Mr ROBLES Gonzalo (EPP/CD)
18. Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC)
19. Mr EKER Mehmet Mehdi (NR)
20. Ms YASKO Yelyzaveta (EPP/CD)
21. Mr SHEPPARD Tommy (NR)
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Alternates / Remplaçant·e·s

- Armenia / Arménie
Austria / Autriche
Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan
Belgium / Belgique
Cyprus / Chypre
Denmark/Danemark
France
Germany / Allemagne
Greece / Grèce
Ireland / Irlande
Lithuania / Lituanie
Malta / Malte
Poland / Pologne
Portugal
Romania / Roumanie
San Marino / Saint-Marin
Spain / Espagne
Switzerland / Suisse
Türkiye
Ukraine
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
- Ms Van VAERENBERGH Kristien (NR)
- Mr ULLRICH Volker (EPP/CD)
Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC)
- Mr SZEJNA Andrzej (SOC)
Ms Isabel MEIRELLES (EPP/CD)
Mr MANG Ioan (SOC)
- Mr GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio (SOC)
Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE)
Mr YILDIZ Ahmet (NR)
Mr SOBOLIEV Serhii (EPP/CD)
Mr HOWELL John (EC/DA)

Ex officio: Mr Zsolt Németh

Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

Sub-Committee on Democracy
of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Sous-commission de la Démocratie
de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

29 seats / 29 sièges

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Chairperson / Président·e

Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC)

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président·e

Ms Ingjerd Schou (Norway, EPP/CD)

Full Members / Membres titulaires

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|-----|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Mr RUBINYAN Ruben (EPP/CD) | Armenia / Arménie | |
| 2. | Mr SEYIDOV Samad (EC/DA) | Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan | |
| 3. | Mr BOUCHEZ Georges-Louis (ALDE) | Belgium / Belgique | Mr MOUTQUIN Simon (SOC) |
| 4. | Mr JENSEN Michael Aastrup (ALDE) | Denmark / Danemark | |
| 5. | Mme KARAMANLI Marietta (SOC) | France | M. Alain MILON (EPP/CD) |
| 6. | Mr ULLRICH Volker (EPP/CD) | Germany / Allemagne | Mr LINK Michael Georg (ALDE) |
| 7. | Mr PAPANDREOU George (SOC) | Greece / Grèce | Mr CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios (EPP/CD) |
| 8. | Mr ARATÓ Gergely (SOC) | Hungary / Hongrie | |
| 9. | Mr TROY Robert (ALDE) | Ireland / Irlande | |
| 10. | Mr LYDEKA Arminas (ALDE) | Lithuania / Lituanie | |
| 11. | Mr GRAAS Gusty (ALDE) | Luxembourg | |
| 12. | Ms SCHOU Ingjerd (EPP/CD) | Norway / Norvège | |
| 13. | Ms MEIRELLES Isabel (EPP/CD) | Portugal | |
| 14. | Mr MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus (EC/DA) | Romania / Roumanie | Ms DMITREA Dumitrina (EC/DA) |
| 15. | Ms SUMELZO Susana (SOC) | Spain / Espagne | |
| 16. | Ms CAROBBIO GUSCETTI Marina (SOC) | Switzerland / Suisse | Ms ARSLAN Sibel (SOC) |
| 17. | Mr HEER Alfred (ALDE) | Switzerland / Suisse | Ms MARET Marianne (EPP/CD) |
| 18. | Mr BÜYÜKGÜMÜŞ Ahmet (NR) | Türkiye | Mr Ahmet Ünal ÇEVİKÖZ (SOC) |
| 19. | Sir LLOYD Tony (SOC) | United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni | |
| 20. | Mr DAEMS Rik (ALDE) | Immediate past President of the Assembly /
Président de l'Assemblée sortant | |
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Ex officio: Mr Zsolt Németh

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