

AS/Per (2023) CB 02

15 May 2023

## To the members of the Standing Committee

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland on 15 May 2023

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 15 May in Reykjavik, with Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

- heard a welcome address by Mr Birgir Ármannsson, Speaker of Alþingi – Parliament of Iceland;
- heard an online address by Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
- within the framework of the Special event on the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe – United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges:
  - heard the introductory remarks by Mr Bjarni Jónsson, Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly;
  - heard the remarks by Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
  - held a panel discussion on “The Council of Europe as a key player of the multilateral architecture”, moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of Ms Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland; Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly; Ms Sylvie Bermann, former Ambassador of France to Beijing, London, and Moscow; and Ms Alice Bergholtz, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe;
  - held a panel discussion on “The Council of Europe as a pioneer of human rights protection: the new generation of rights”, moderated by Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with the participation of Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland; Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Assembly; Ms Ilze Brands Kehris, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights; Ms Nathalie Smuha, Researcher and Assistant Lecturer, Institute for European Law, KU Leuven, expert on Artificial Intelligence; and Ms Tinna Hallgrímsdóttir, youth representative in the Icelandic Climate Council;
  - heard an address by Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition;
  - heard concluding remarks by Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, and Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Riga, Latvia, on 26 May 2023.

Sonia Sirtori, Greta Faggiani

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