



SECRETARIAT

**AS/Mig (2023) CB 07**

16 October 2023

## To the members of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

### Synopsis

### of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 9, 10 and 12 October 2023

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Strasbourg, on 9, 10 and 12 October 2023, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos (Greece, EPP/CD), in the Chair,

- on Monday 9 October, from 13:00 to 13:30, as regards:
  - Possible debate under urgent procedure on the “Humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh”<sup>1</sup> : appointed Mr Domagoj Hajduković, (Croatia, SOC) as rapporteur for report and heard his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
  - Lampedusa: European solidarity as a necessity for the dignified reception of refugees: considered and adopted a draft declaration on behalf of the Committee, proposed at the initiative of Mr Emmanuel Fernandes (France, UEL);
- on Tuesday 10 October 2023, from 8:30 to 9:30, with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos (Greece, EPP/CD), in the Chair, as regards:
  - Debate under urgent procedure on the “Humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh: considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- on Tuesday 10 October 2023 from 10:30 to 12:30, as regards:
  - Dialogue with the representatives of the Russian democratic forces sharing the Council of Europe values, follow-up to Assembly 2433 (2022) and 2473 (2022)<sup>1</sup>:
    - held a hearing with the democratic Russian opposition forces with the participation Ms Natalia Arno, President of the Free Russia Foundation; Mr Gennady Gudkov, former member of the Duma, Chairman of "For a Free Russia"; Mr Sergei Guriev, Russian Anti-War Committee, True Russia Project; Ms Evgenia Kara-Murza, wife of jailed Russian opposition leader and 2022 Václav Havel Prize laureate Vladimir Kara-Murza; Mr Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Russian Anti-War Committee, Russian Action Committee (online); Ms Ekaterina Shulman, political scientist, academic and commentator; with the participation also of Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly;
    - took note of the intention of the President of the Assembly to establish a regular contact platform for dialogue with representatives of Russian democratic forces who share Council of Europe values, fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and condemn the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine;

<sup>1</sup> Subject to a decision by the Assembly.

- **on Thursday 12 October 2023, from 8:30 to 10:00**, as regards:
  - **Human rights and humanitarian situation of Karabakh Armenians and international obligations of Azerbaijan**: held a joint hearing with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (recorded and broadcasted via YouTube with the agreement of the experts), with the participation of Mr Thomas de Waal, London, United Kingdom (online); Mr Andreas Wissner, Representative, UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg; and Prof. Dr. Björn Schiffbauer, Professor of Public Law, European and International Law, University of Rostock, Germany;
- **on Thursday 12 October 2023, from 10:00 to 12:30**, as regards:
  - **Debate under urgent procedure on the “Humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh”**: took position on 29 amendments which had been tabled to the draft resolution and 9 amendments which had been tabled to the draft recommendation;
  - **The theme of migration and asylum in the election campaign and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC)*), (taking position on amendments): postponed this item given the postponement of the consideration of the item by the Assembly to 2024;
  - **The humanitarian crisis emerging for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees**: took note that no amendments had been tabled;
  - **Immigration, one of the answers to Europe’s demographic aging**: held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Xavier Devictor, Co-Director for the World Development, Report 2023, The World Bank;
  - **Work programme:**

**Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:

**Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings:**

    - Mr Abdurrahman BABACAN (Türkiye, NR) to become a full member;
    - Ms Eirini (Rena) DOUROU (Greece, UEL) to become a full member;
    - Mr Dimitrios MANTZOS (Greece, SOC) to become an alternate member (of Ms Eirini (Rena) DOUROU);

**Sub-Committee on Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People:**

    - Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK (Türkiye, NR) to become a full member;
    - Ms Meryem GÖKA (Türkiye, NR) to become a full member;
    - Mr Anastasios CHATZIVASILEIOU (Greece, EPP /CD) to become a full member;
    - Ms Eirini (Rena) DOUROU (Greece, UEL) to become alternate member (of Mr Anastasios CHATZIVASILEIOU);

**Sub-Committee on Diasporas and Integration:**

    - Ms Pelin YILIK (Türkiye, NR) to become a full member;
    - Ms Meryem GÖKA (Türkiye, NR) to become a full member;
    - Mr Dimitrios MANTZOS (Greece, SOC) to become a full member;
    - Mr Anastasios CHATZIVASILEIOU to become an alternate member (of Mr Dimitrios MANTZOS);
- **Other business:**
  - **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the situation of children of Ukraine (subject to its creation by the Bureau on 13 October 2023)**

The Committee took note of the expression of interest by Mr Paulo Pisco (Portugal, SOC) to attend the meeting of the Ad hoc Committee in Paris on 15 December 2023. Other members interested to participate in that meeting are invited to express their interest to the Committee Secretariat.

- **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau with a view to participate in the conference “Money and Democracy - an Uneasy Relationship”, 7-8 December 2023**

Members interested to participate in the conference “Money and Democracy - an Uneasy Relationship”, 7-8 December 2023, in Cologne, Germany, as part of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau set up for that, are invited to express their interest to the Committee Secretariat.

- **Authorisations by the Committee:**
  - authorised the fact-finding mission of Ms Kate Osamor (United-Kingdom), in the framework of the preparation of her report on “*Immigration, one of the answers to Europe’s demographic aging*” (place and dates to be confirmed, and subject to availability of financial resources);
  - authorised the participation of Mr Paulo Pisco in the next meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (Paris, 6 December 2023, Council of Europe Office) to take part in an exchange of views, as follow-up to his report on “*Deportations and forcible transfers of Ukrainian children and other civilians to Russian Federation or to Ukrainian territories temporarily occupied: create conditions for their safe return, stop these crimes and punish the perpetrators*”;
  - authorised the participation of Mr Hajduković in the side event prepared by the Council of Europe’s intergovernmental sector in the framework of the Global Refugee Forum 2023, as a follow-up to the recently adopted report on “*Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved*” (Geneva, 13-15 December 2023, subject to availability of financial resources).

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**The Sub-Committee on Diasporas and Integration**, meeting in Strasbourg on 9 October 2023, from 13.30 to 14.00, with Mr Paulo Pisco (Portugal, SOC), in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee:** elected by acclamation Lord Leslie Griffiths (United Kingdom, SOC) as Vice-Chairperson;
- **Diasporas and access to media and means of social communication:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr António Raúl Reis, Founder and Director of the newspaper *Bom dia*, an online medium for Portuguese-speaking communities in Europe, and President of *Plataforma*, an association representing Portuguese media organisations abroad;
- **Next meeting:** took note of its next meeting as follows:
  - Paris, 8 December 2023 (Council of Europe Office).

**Tatiana Termacic, Angela Garabagiu, Gaël Martin-Micallef, Marie Martin**

cc: Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary 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