

SECRETARIAT

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15 October 2024

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans held in Belgrade on 10 and 11 October 2024

The **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans** of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, meeting in Belgrade on 10 and 11 October 2024, with Mr Alexis Tsipras (Greece, UEL) in the Chair, and the participation of Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, as regards:

- **Opening session:** heard a statement by Ms Ana Brnabić, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Session I – Regional developments and security challenges in the Western Balkans:** with the moderation first of Ms Biljana Pantić Pilja (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the delegation of Serbia to the Parliamentary Assembly, and then Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), held two panel discussions with the participation of (in alphabetical order):
 - Mr Igor Bandović, Director, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy
 - Mr Lulzim Basha (Albania, EPP/CD)
 - Mr Kyriakos Hadjiyianni, Vice-President, Special Representative on South-East Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE-PA)
 - Ms Anja Jokić, Bureau member of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
 - Ms Marilena Koppa, Professor of Comparative Politics, Panteion University, Athens
 - Ms Sonja Licht, President, Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society
 - Ms Oana Popescu, Director, GlobalFocus Center
 - Mr Marina Raguš, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
 - Mr Davor Ivo Stier, member of the European Parliament (*online*)
 - Ms Danijela Vujičić, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
- **Session II – Economic challenges, energy cooperation, and environmental transition:** with the moderation of Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE), Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans, held a panel discussion with the participation of (in alphabetical order):
 - Ms Nadejda Grochkova Leruste, Country Manager for Serbia, Council of Europe Development Bank
 - Mr Richard Maša, Head of Section, Delegation of the European Union to Serbia
 - Ms Snežana Paunović, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
 - Mr Harry Tzimitras, Director, Peace Research Institute Oslo, Cyprus Centre
- **Session III – European Integration: what next?:** with the moderation of Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), held a panel discussion with the participation of (in alphabetical order):
 - Mr Branislav Borenović (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD)
 - Mr Zsolt Bunford, Ambassador, Hungary's Special Envoy for the Western Balkans
 - Ms Plamena Halacheva, Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to Serbia
 - Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

- **Conclusions:** heard conclusions by Ms Biljana Pantić Pilja (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the delegation of Serbia, and Mr Alexis Tsipras (Greece, UEL), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee;
- **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.

Sonia Sirtori, Cesare Colombo

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