

SECRETARIAT

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To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 9 September 2024

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 9 September 2024, with Mr Bertrand Bouyx (France, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, with the participation of Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, as regards:

- ***The situation in Iran and the protection of Iranian human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States*** (*rapporteur: Mr Max Lucks, Germany, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- ***Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe*** (*rapporteur: Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur; considered a preliminary draft report; and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Jānis Sārts, Director, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Riga, and Mr David Agranovich, Director, Global Threat Disruption, Meta, California, United States of America (online), followed by an exchange of views;
- ***Relations with Russian democratic forces*** (*general rapporteur: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE*): heard a statement by the general rapporteur, followed by an exchange of views; considered an information document (“roadmap”) and decided to declassify it;
- ***Political consequences of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine*** (*rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur followed by an exchange of views; and authorised him to carry out a fact finding visit to Ukraine, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
- ***Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement*** (*rapporteur: Ms Blerina Gjylameti, Albania, SOC*): considered an outline report;
- ***Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy*** (*rapporteur: Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, EC/DA*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Su Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Jo Cox Foundation (United Kingdom), followed by an exchange of views, and considered an outline report;
- ***Situation in the Middle East*** (*rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard from the rapporteur a declaration of absence of conflict of interests and a statement, followed by an exchange of views; and authorised her to carry out a fact-finding visit to the region, in the framework of the preparation of her report (dates to be confirmed and subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly, and to the availability of funds);
- ***The need for renewed, effective and inclusive multilateralism*** (*rapporteur: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to change the title of the report to “The need for a renewed rules-based international order”;
- ***Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America*** (*rapporteur: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones, Spain, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur, and considered a revised introductory memorandum;

- **Sub-Committee on External Relations:** heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), and approved her proposal to hold the meeting of the Sub-Committee at the UN Headquarters, New York, in Autumn 2024, in the margins of the 79th session of UN General Assembly (in accordance with Assembly Order 500 (1994) and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- **Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans:** heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, Mr Alexis Tsipras (Greece, UEL); approved his proposal to hold a meeting of the Sub-Committee in Belgrade, on 10-11 October 2024 (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly); and took note of the preliminary draft programme and the practical information;
- **Work programme:**
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs for reports:** appointed, by acclamation:
 - Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence”, and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - Ms Ingjerd Schie Schou (Norway, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Political parties and democracy”, subject to hearing from her a declaration of interests;
 - Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE), rapporteur on “Bürgenstock summit on peace in Ukraine: paving the way”, subject to hearing from him a declaration of interests;
 - Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), rapporteur on “Support for political negotiations to enforce exchange and release of prisoners of war”, and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - **Appointment of Committee representatives:** appointed:
 - Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD) and Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) to sit on the ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the annual conference of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network (EPTA) on “Artificial Intelligence and Democracy” (Oslo, 21 October 2024);
 - Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, EC/DA), M. Reinhold Lopatka (Austria, EPP/CD) and Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) to sit on the ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Conference on “Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport” (Athens, 4-5 November 2024);
 - in addition to members already appointed during the June 2024 part-session, Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) to sit on the ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2024);
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised:
 - Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC), general rapporteur on democracy, to participate in the OECD Global Forum on “Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy”, in Milan (Italy), on 21-22 October 2024;
 - Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC), rapporteur on “Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic”, to carry out a fact finding visit to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in the framework of the preparation of her report, in 2024 or 2025 (dates to be confirmed and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- **Other business:** took note of the three candidates shortlisted for the 2024 Václav Havel Prize;

- **Next meetings:** took note of the meetings in 2024 to be held as follows
 - October part-session (30 September to 4 October 2024), Strasbourg;
 - 10-11 October 2024, Sub-Committee on the Western Balkans, Belgrade (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - Autumn 2024, Sub-Committee on External Relations, UN Headquarters, New York, United States of America (dates to be confirmed and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
 - 11 December 2024, Paris.

Sonia Sirtori, Pavel Chevtchenko, Cesare Colombo, 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