



SECRETARIAT

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17 March 2023

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 15 March 2023

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Paris on 15 March 2023, from 9:30 to 12:30 and from 14:00 to 16:30, with Mr Paul Gavan (Ireland, UEL), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved** (*Rapporteur: Mr Domagoj Hajduković, Croatia, SOC*): approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paul Galles, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): had an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Andrei Vaitovich, Franco-Belarusian journalist based in Lithuania;
- **The situation of Ukrainian persons forcefully displaced or transferred to the Russian Federation or Ukrainian territories under the de facto control of the Russian Federation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paulo Pisco, Portugal, SOC*): had an exchange of views with the online participation of Ms Kateryna Rashevskya, legal expert at the Regional Center for Human Rights, Ukraine; considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to change the title as follows: “The situation of Ukrainian civilians, including children, forcibly displaced or transferred to the Russian Federation or Ukrainian territories under the de facto control of the Russian Federation” and decided to ask the Bureau to hold an urgent debate on this issue during the April 2023 part-session;
- **European solidarity: a priority for the EU Migration and Asylum Pact**: considered and adopted unanimously a declaration;
- **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*): had an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Meaghan Fitzgerald, Head of the Election Department at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and Ms Amara Makhoul, Editor-in-chief (France24) in charge of the InfoMigrants website;
- **The humanitarian crisis emerging for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees** (*Rapporteur: Mr Birgir Þórarinnsson, Iceland, EPP/CD*): heard an information by the rapporteur on his visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan (5-11 December 2022) carried out in his capacity as member of the Icelandic parliament;
- **Work programme:**
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs for report:** appointed, by acclamation:
 - Ms Kate Osamor (United Kingdom, SOC), Rapporteur for “Immigration, one of the answers to Europe's demographic aging”, subject to hearing from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests at the next meeting;

- Ms Stephanie Krisper (Austria, ALDE), Rapporteur for “Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures”, subject to hearing from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests at the next meeting;
- Mr Paul Gavan (Ireland, UEL), Rapporteur for “Addressing the humanitarian consequences of the blockade of the Lachin corridor” and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
- **Call for candidates for rapporteur for opinion:** called for candidates for rapporteur for opinion on “Health and social protection of undocumented workers or those in an irregular situation” and took note of Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez’ (Switzerland, SOC) interest;
- **References for taking into account in the preparation of other reports:**
 - “Ensuring Azerbaijan’s accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law and its statutory obligations”: agreed that this reference be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Addressing the humanitarian consequences of the blockade of the Lachin corridor”;
 - “Transfer and resettlement of asylum seekers”: agreed that this reference be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures”;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:** authorised Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) to participate in the international launching event “Turning 18 with confidence - Supporting migrant and refugee children in transition to adulthood”, 18 April 2023, Strasbourg (at no cost to the Assembly);
- **Consideration of the reply by the Committee of Ministers to Assembly Recommendation 2209 (2021) on “Humanitarian consequences of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan / Nagorno Karabakh conflict”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paul Gavan, Ireland, UEL*): heard a statement by the former rapporteur on the reply;
- **Open discussion on current issues:**
 - Heard Lord Leslie Griffiths (United-Kingdom, SOC) on the draft Illegal Immigration Bill being discussed in the United Kingdom; suggested to Lord Griffiths to prepare a draft declaration on the matter to be considered for adoption at the next meeting;
 - Heard the presentation by Mr Birgir Thórarinsson (Iceland, EPP/CD) on the new Immigration Bill adopted the same day, on 15 March by the parliament of Iceland;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - **Sub-Committee on Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People:**
 - Mr Pavlo Bakunets (Ukraine, EC/DA) and Mr Taras Batenko (Ukraine, NR) to become full members;
- **Next meetings:** at the invitation of the Chairperson of the Icelandic delegation, decided to hold a meeting in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 21 September 2023 and to ask authorisation of the Bureau for it; enquired whether a second meeting day could be envisaged for the committee while in Reykjavik; took note of its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2023 of the Assembly (24-28 April);
 - Paris, 11 May 2023 (Council of Europe Office);
 - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2023 of the Assembly (19-23 June);
 - Reykjavik (Iceland), 21 September 2023 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2023 of the Assembly (9-13 October);
 - Paris, 8 December 2023 (Council of Europe Office).

Tatiana Termacic, Angela Garabagiu, 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
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