



SECRETARIAT

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 24 April and 27 April 2023

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Strasbourg, on 24 and 27 April 2023, with Mr Paul Gavan (Ireland, UEL), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- on Monday 24 April 2023, from 13:00 to 14:00, as regards:
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: “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”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paulo Pisco, Portugal, SOC*): approved a draft report, agreed to change the title as follows: **“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”** and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **Grave concerns regarding the United Kingdom’s Illegal Migration Bill**: considered and unanimously adopted a draft declaration on behalf of the Committee, proposed at the initiative of Lord Leslie Griffiths (United Kingdom, SOC);
 - **Humanitarian visas for the victims of the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria**: considered and unanimously adopted a draft declaration on behalf of the Committee, proposed at the initiative of Mr Emmanuel Fernandes (France, UEL);
- on Thursday 27 April 2023, from 08:30 to 10:30, as regards:
 - **Social inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons through sport** (*Rapporteur: Ms Nigar Arpadarai, Azerbaijan, EC/DA*): decided to postpone this item in the absence of the Rapporteur;
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: “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”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paulo Pisco, Portugal, SOC*): took position on 8 amendments to the draft resolution and 1 amendment to the draft recommendation;
 - **Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile** (*Rapporteur: Mr Paul Galle, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Poland and Lithuania (26 - 30 March 2023) and considered a preliminary draft report; after double-checking, the Rapporteur indicated that he would use the correct term in the French version of the title of the report: “Bélarussiens”; had an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Yury Hubarevich, Chairperson, Movement “For Freedom”, Mr Yauheni Vilski, first Deputy Chairman, Belarusian Social Democratic Party “Narodnaya Hramada”, and Ms Natallia Pinchuk, wife of Mr Ales Bialiatski, laureate of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize and of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize;
 - **The humanitarian crisis emerging for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees** (*Rapporteur: Mr Birgir Þórarinsson, Iceland, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Türkiye (11 - 15 April 2023);
 - **Ad hoc Sub-Committee to carry out a fact-finding visit to Calais (France)**: heard statements by Mr Emmanuel Fernandes and Mr Jeremy Corbyn in favour of such a visit to be further discussed at

its next meeting so as to decide on the possible creation of an ad hoc sub-committee to carry out a fact-finding visit to Calais (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly), the Vice-Chair having invited interested members to express their interest in being part of this ad hoc sub-committee to the Secretariat;

- **Follow-up to the Resolution 2448 (2022) “Humanitarian consequences and internal and external displacement in connection with the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine”**: held an exchange of views on the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Europe with Ms Leyla Kayacik, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe;
- **Authorisations by the committee**: authorised:
 - Mr Paul Gavan (Ireland, UEL), Rapporteur on “Addressing the humanitarian consequences of the blockade of the Lachin corridor” to carry out a fact-finding visit to Armenia (31 May-2 June 2023) and Azerbaijan (4-6 June 2023);
 - Ms Stephanie Krisper (Austria, ALDE) to participate online in the meeting of the Council of Europe Network of Focal Points on Migration, 2 June 2023, Strasbourg (at no cost to the Assembly);
- **Work programme**:
 - **Appointment of a rapporteur for opinion on**:
 - Health and social protection of undocumented workers or those in an irregular situation: appointed, by acclamation Ms Arusyak Julhakyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Declaration of absence of conflict of interest**: heard declarations of absence of conflict of interest by:
 - Ms Kate Osamor (United Kingdom, SOC), Rapporteur for the report on “Immigration, one of the answers to Europe’s demographic aging”;
 - Ms Stephanie Krisper (Austria, ALDE), Rapporteur for the report on “Ensuring human rights compliant asylum procedures”;
- **Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe (Brussels, Belgium, 22 May 2023)**: authorised Mr Domagoj Hajduković (Croatia, SOC) to participate as a speaker in the event. The Vice-Chair expressed hope that Mr Gonzalo Robles (Spain, EPP/CD) already Representative of the Committee to the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe will attend the event (with no cost for the Assembly)
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees**: approved the following changes:
 - Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings**:
 - Mr Marco SCURRIA (Italy, EC/DA) to become a full member;
 - Sub-Committee on Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People**:
 - Ms Sandra ZAMPA (Italy, SOC) to become a full member;
 - Sub-Committee on Diasporas and Integration**:
 - Mr Dimitri COIN (Italy, EC/DA) to become a full member;
- **Other business**:
 - Heard Mr Emmanuel Fernandes (France, UEL) on the current operation by the French authorities in the French overseas department of Mayotte meant to deport migrants irregularly staying on the territory; took note of Mr Fernandes’s interest in preparing a draft declaration on the matter to be considered for adoption at the next meeting;
 - Heard Mr Lukas Savickas (Lithuania, SOC) on the recent adoption of amendments to the Law on the State Border and its Protection and the risks of legalising pushbacks as well as the use of force by civilians at the border; took note of the interest of Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) to issue a statement in his capacity as rapporteur on pushbacks, to echo and support Mr Savickas’s concerns;
 - Heard an update by Mr Daniel Guéry, Chairperson of the Migration Committee of Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe.

- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 11 May 2023 (Council of Europe Office);
 - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2023 of the Assembly (19-23 June);
 - Reykjavik (Iceland), 21-22 September 2023;
 - 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, 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