



AS/Per (2015) PV 03

23 January 2016

Standing Committee

Minutes¹

**of the meeting held in Sofia (Bulgaria)
on 27 November 2015**

¹ Approved by the Assembly on 25 January 2016

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting began at 9 am with **Ms Brasseur**, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

The President opened the meeting with a minute's silence in tribute to the victims of the attacks in Paris and to those who had died in the flight from Sharm el Sheikh which had crashed. 2015 saw the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights and the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. However, there was little room for celebration in a context in which the fundamental values of the Council of Europe were faced with the threat of terrorism. In order to protect democracy, it was imperative to be united, transcending political and geopolitical divisions. The declaration which the Bulgarian delegation had submitted for adoption later that morning underlined the power of joint action. Unity was vital, the European family must stand together to prove that there was a response to terrorism fully in keeping with the standards and values of the Council of Europe. National parliaments were urged to ensure the prompt ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, which addressed – among other things – the problem of foreign fighters. The aim of the Protocol was to criminalise the providing or receiving of training for terrorism. In addition, and for the first time, international law called for the criminalisation of travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism. Just one month following its opening for signature, 20 States had already signed the treaty, demonstrating their resolve to combat terrorism. A further means of asserting our values was the No Hate campaign. Populism provided dangerous sustenance for hate speech and promoted the abandonment of freedoms in exchange for false promises of greater security.

The Bulgarian Chairmanship's priority to facilitate young persons' access to culture was of particular importance as culture was undoubtedly a response to radicalisation. Protecting the media from external influence, the Bulgarian Chairmanship's second priority, was also of vital importance because freedom of the media and free elections were two of the pillars of democracy. The Chairmanship's efforts to protect vulnerable groups were to be welcomed. The routes followed by the migrants crossed the countries of the western Balkans, which was why it was essential to step up co-operation between neighbouring states. The Assembly would be taking an active part in the conference on "Our Europe: Learning to live together in the 21st century – Migration issues". Integration was a two-way process in which towns, cities and municipalities played a key role. A "Welcoming City" certification could be set up as a means of encouragement. Assembly members were asked to take an active part in the two initiatives of the Migration Committee: a conference in Paris and a visit to a migrant holding centre.

Lastly, 25 November was International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. A campaign, "Orange the world" was an effective means of showcasing these efforts to bring about a violence-free world.

2. WELCOME ADDRESS BY **Ms TSETSKA TSACHEVA**, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Ms Tsacheva conveyed a message of sympathy to France and roundly condemned the barbaric acts of terrorism. The international democratic community had entered into a war against this scourge and the slogan of the Bulgarian Chairmanship "Unity creates strength" perfectly described the path to follow. One of the first Parliamentary Assembly documents had been "Reserve seats in the Assembly for the European nations which for the present, cannot be represented". On joining the Council of Europe in 1992, Bulgaria had become the 27th member state of the organisation and had been able to take up the seats that had been reserved for it. Several initiatives launched during the first Bulgarian Chairmanship had become European policies, such as the Declaration on Education for Democratic Citizenship and the Revitalisation of Derelict Urban Areas. Bulgaria had actively supported the enlargement of the Council of Europe, which today comprised 47 member states. This second Chairmanship came about in a particularly distressing context: the increasing terrorist threat, the migration crisis and the violation of international law in Ukraine and Georgia. This required us to reassert the aims of the Council of Europe and the principles of European unity. The inviolability of borders, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and co-operation in good faith between states was a common legacy enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, this year celebrating its 40th anniversary. The Bulgarian National Assembly would be organising a conference on "Democratic security based on unity and co-operation", to which the chairs of the parliamentary foreign affairs committees and representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly were invited. The priorities of the Bulgarian Chairmanship would focus on strengthening the protection of children and protection of the media from external influence. The conference on "Our Europe: Learning to live together in the 21st century – Migration issues" would be organised jointly with the Council of Europe and the youth branches of European political parties. The conference on "Protecting the rights of refugee children" would be organised in partnership with Unicef. The Assembly must continue to play its role as a forum for all the countries of Europe. Participation in the Assembly's debates by

delegations from the partners for democracy, observers and the Holy See would make these debates more comprehensive.

3. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH Mr DANIEL MITOV, BULGARIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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The President welcomed Mr Mitov.

Mr Mitov said it was deeply unfortunate that Bulgaria was embarking upon its second Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe against the background of the Paris attacks. His first statement as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers on 17 November had been a message of sympathy to the people of France over the terrorist attacks which had taken place on 13 November. The Committee of Ministers was determined to help states combat terrorism and extremism with the full range of the legal tools available, while protecting the standards and values of the Council of Europe. The Council also had unique expertise with regard to preventing radicalisation and strengthening social cohesion, in particular through education. The previous May, the Committee of Ministers had adopted an action plan to combat violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism and the speedy implementation of this action plan was now a priority. An additional protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, focusing on foreign terrorist fighters, had been opened for signature. It had already been signed by 20 states. Assembly members were urged to ensure continuation of the signature and ratification process. The Bulgarian Chairmanship would be working in close co-operation with the main organs of the Council of Europe to ensure implementation of the joint programme to defend human rights in Europe and beyond.

The joint priority with the subsequent chairmanships of Estonia and Cyprus was strengthening the protection of children's rights. Investing in children was investing in the future. The Chairmanship supported the Council's activities in this field, in particular the new strategy for children's rights for 2016-2021. The first celebration of European Day for the Protection of Children had taken place on 18 November 2015 and the Chairmanship had issued a statement on that occasion. A high-level conference was planned. Two other events would relate to children and young people's access to culture and education, which was a means of preventing the risks of racist and xenophobic acts.

A second joint priority related to protecting the media from external influence, with particular attention placed on the problems of hate speech and media self-regulation. Two international conferences would be held in Sofia in spring 2016. The Chairmanship would help promote the Guide to Human Rights for Internet Users, produced by the Council of Europe.

Another priority concerned the protection and integration of vulnerable groups. Conferences would be organised on the rights of persons with disabilities, migrants and on better access to education for refugee children.

In addition, the Chairmanship would encourage the promotion of the Council of Europe's legal instruments, in particular the signature and ratification process of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 to the European Convention on Human Rights and the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Help would be given for implementation of the 2015-2017 Action Plan for Ukraine. Efforts would be made to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine on the basis of the Minsk Agreements. Belarus should be involved to a greater extent in the Council of Europe. Lastly, Bulgaria would do all it could to speed up the process of accession by the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mr Jansen was surprised at the emphasis placed on the conflict in Ukraine in the Chairmanship's document. Thus far, no sanction against the Russian Federation had come from the Committee of Ministers. What could be done to ensure that Russia honoured its commitments, particularly with regard to the Minsk Agreements?

Mr Mitov stressed that this question, which was a fundamental and priority one for the whole of Europe, would be looked at in detail. Although it had not been involved in the negotiations leading to the Minsk Agreements, the Council of Europe played an active part in their implementation and took steps to see that the commitments were honoured by both parties. In addition, the Committee of Ministers was supporting the reforms in Ukraine and called on Russia to implement the resolutions already adopted.

Ms Todorova, the Bulgarian Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, added that the Committee of Ministers was discussing a new decision on Ukraine so as to send a firm political message on the need to

pursue the reforms. The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights would shortly be travelling to Russia and Ukraine to take fresh stock of the situation with regard to respect for human rights.

In reply to **Mr Destexhe**, who asked what the Chairmanship was doing about the terrorist threat and the use of tools to combat Islamist propaganda, **Mr Mitov** underlined the action taken by the Chairmanship focusing on education and eliminating the possibility of radicalisation by identifying vulnerable groups and combating hate speech. Bulgaria had had a positive experience by working at an early stage with religious leaders of all faiths. It was important to disseminate messages which countered the radical calls. Civil society, which had woken up to the problem, was already taking action to counteract the radical messages without being asked to do so by the official bodies.

In reply to **Mr Díaz Tejera**, who asked about the Chairmanship's views on the European Court of Human Rights, **Mr Mitov** said that it would support the reform of the Court and the other Council of Europe bodies involved to enable this institution to be in a position to rise to the current challenge.

Lastly, **Mr Mitov** reassured **Mr Arieu**, who referred to the flagrant violations of human rights in eastern Ukraine, identified by the UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, that the first measure to be taken there would be to secure greater mobility for the international observers. It was not possible to talk of implementation of the Minsk Agreements without taking account of respect for human rights, a matter which lay at the very heart of the Council of Europe's *raison d'être*.

4. EXAMINATION OF NEW CREDENTIALS

Doc. 13926

The Standing Committee **verified** the credentials of the new representatives and substitutes, as set out in document Doc.13926.

The non-ratified credentials of the United Kingdom delegation **were challenged** on procedural grounds, in accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure. The question **was referred**, without debate, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs.

Sir Roger Gale provided explanations concerning the appointment of the United Kingdom delegation.

5. CHANGES TO THE COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

Commissions (2015) 08
and Addendum

The Standing Committee **approved** the changes to the composition of Assembly committees, as set out in document Commissions (2015) 08 and Addendum 01.

6. REQUEST FOR A CURRENT AFFAIRS DEBATE

The President told the Standing Committee that a request for a current affairs debate on "Combating international terrorism while protecting Council of Europe standards and values" had been tabled. The Bureau had approved this request and had proposed Mr Kox as the first speaker.

7. AGENDA

AS/Per (2014) OJ 03 rev.2

The revised draft agenda was **adopted**.

The President said that speaking time allocated during the debates on the reports would be limited to three minutes.

8. FIRST PART-SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (25-29 January 2016)

AS/Bur (2015) 77

In accordance with Rule 27.4 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, the Standing Committee **took note** of the draft agenda of the first part-Session of 2016.

9. REFERENCES, TRANSMISSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

AS/Per (2015) 09

The Standing Committee **approved** the references and transmissions to committees, as set out in Appendix I.

10. CURRENT AFFAIRS DEBATE (UNDER RULE 53 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE)

Mr Kox cited the deadly terrorist attacks which had recently occurred in Paris, Ankara, Beirut, Egypt and Tunisia. Everywhere in the world, citizens were anticipating further atrocities by the so-called “Islamic State” terrorists who had declared war on the fundamental values of the Council of Europe: democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Clearly, it was imperative to combat terrorism, but this needed to be done effectively while protecting the values of the Council of Europe. This was easier said than done. This year, the Council of Europe had adopted an additional protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, concluded ten years previously in the wake of the attacks of 11 September 2001. Moreover, the UN in 1999 and the Council of Europe in 1978, had adopted, respectively, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Declaration on Terrorism. However, despite a large number of legal tools, there were still no effective instruments. In spite of the worldwide ratification of the UN Convention, it was impossible to cut off the financial channels funding the so-called “Islamic State”, which according to information from the German government, was able to amass billions to finance its terrorist activity in Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Paris, Beirut and Ankara. Recently, at the G20, Mr Putin had also indicated that, despite the requirements of that Convention, at least 40 countries continued to fund the so-called “Islamic State”. This organisation was now engaged in oil transactions with states. Instead of making the existing provisions effective, the current trend was unfortunately to make new rules which in many cases violated the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe, as pointed out by the Commissioner for Human Rights.

The bellicose terms recently used by politicians should not give these terrorists a status they did not deserve, as they remained criminals who committed atrocious crimes against innocent people with the aim of destabilising society. The recent decisions on military intervention in Iraq and Syria were debatable from the point of view of international law and lacked strategy. Rather, efforts should have focused more on the ceasefire in Syria based on the Vienna talks and on establishing a more inclusive government in Iraq, thereby giving both countries the internal means to combat terrorism.

While democracy was entitled to defend itself, it must do so in ways which upheld democratic values. Unfortunately, several extremist political parties were fighting the wrong battle.

The President also warned against the dangers of populism. Each country must combat both scourges simultaneously.

Mr Rouquet thanked all those who had expressed their solidarity with France, which had suffered such appalling attacks. A national day of mourning had been declared with the ceremony planned to be held at the Invalides as a tribute to the victims. The French President was in talks with the European heads of state in order to find ways of stemming the rise of the so-called “Islamic State”. The members of the Assembly were asked to support this approach in their respective countries.

Mr Destexhe expressed his support for the victims of terrorism in the many countries cited by Mr Kox. For four days, Brussels had lived through a state of siege which was hard to reconcile with the image of the city in peace-time. Five hundred Belgian citizens – a large number given the size of the country – had left to join the so-called “Islamic State”. The fight against terrorism – an international scourge – required greater international co-operation which today was insufficient. Moreover, while everyone agreed that human rights needed to be protected in pursuing the fight against terrorism, it was necessary to consider how far exactly that protection should be extended in practical terms. For example, the European Union Directive on passenger name records, initiated in the aftermath of the Charlie Hebdo attacks, would have made it possible to ensure a closer watch on the movements of suspects. Such an initiative between the European Union and the United States was already in place. However, so far, the Directive had still not been adopted because the debate on the violations of individual freedoms that this would entail was still ongoing. He called on the Assembly to work towards its early adoption.

Mr Ariev, on behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, expressed his condolences to the countries that had suffered terrorist attacks and said that terrorist threats were becoming increasingly more oppressive. In addition to the victims of the so-called “Islamic State” there were the victims of the pro-Russian terrorists in

eastern Ukraine. Every human life must be respected. In the fight against terrorism, it would be unwise to forge alliances with countries which behaved reprehensibly by themselves supporting terrorism. The current actions of Russia cast doubt on implementation of the Minsk agreements in 2016. It was a matter of deep regret that still today many people in eastern Ukraine continued to be persecuted, raped and tortured as evidenced by several reports.

Mr Xuclà conveyed his condolences to the families of the victims affected by the attacks. The title of the debate called for a fight against international terrorism, which presupposed a broad alliance of European countries. Consequently, it was not a question of merely forming an axis with Moscow. The lessons of Guantanamo and the invasion of Iraq should serve to prevent violations of rights and freedoms, including the rights of religious minorities, on the pretext of the fight against terrorism. Furthermore, Europe should reiterate its commitment to pluralist democracy even though it had to be acknowledged that it was not clear how the migrants would be integrated. Secularism must be the basis for integration. The acceptance of oil transactions and the support of certain countries made the terrorists powerful.

Mr Díaz Tejera wished to contribute to the wider debate on terrorism initiated several years previously and supported the earlier call made by Mr Dick Marty not to put terrorists in a class of their own but to treat them as common criminals. So far, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan had taken in millions of refugees. In 2014, Europe had taken in 42,000 but these refugees were seen as having caused a crisis of values. The point was that this crisis had begun well before the refugee crisis. Today, several European politicians had a different view on the position of human rights in society. This was a real challenge.

Mr Seyidov welcomed the words of Mr Kox, who had managed to link the fight against terrorism and respect for human rights. Terrorism was a barbaric act which transcended national borders and posed a challenge to international society. The Assembly must constantly condemn terrorism through its action and its declarations. For several years, it had been impossible to resolve a number of flagrant violations, such as the violations of territorial integrity. This was the reason why today we were faced with unprecedented human rights violations. A conference organised under the auspices of the Council of Europe or its Parliamentary Assembly would have made it possible to discuss what terror means for us and whom we should be fighting.

Mr Nicoletti expressed his sadness at the terrorist attacks which today threatened our way of life that had been developed not without difficulty. It was essential to find new tools in order to conduct an effective fight. Even though the term “war” could be used for the purposes of political rhetoric, its use in the fundamental texts and in international law entailed political consequences such as recognising that the adversary had the status of sovereign state and political entity, which was to be avoided at all cost. Terrorism was a criminal activity and should be dealt with as such.

Mr Agramunt concurred with the previous speakers and referred to the earlier attacks in London, Istanbul and Madrid. The terrorist attacks were aimed at civilised countries. They raised the question of the balance which the authorities needed to strike between the security of citizens and protection of democratic values. A debate in January would be an opportunity to analyse in greater depth the new aspects of this threat for member states.

Mr Wach approved of Mr Kox’s position. Particular attention needed to be focused on politicians who exploited the current difficulties to generate fear. In addition, the fight had to be conducted with due regard for human rights. Lastly, additional funds should be set aside to strengthen security arrangements, although under no circumstances should these include the closing of borders.

Mr Schennach expressed his solidarity with France and other countries where there had been so much tragic loss of human life. He shared Mr Nicoletti’s opinion regarding use of the term “war”. Words were not neutral and it was essential to avoid inappropriate terminology. The fight must be conducted in terms of human rights since anyone who abandoned freedom for the sake of security would ultimately lose both. Mr Xuclà had quite rightly pointed out that the terrorists’ money came in part from oil sales, a limited market in which all the stakeholders were well-known. Lastly, Turkey must honour its obligations with regard to the reception of migrants.

Ms Kavvadia felt that European societies had to defend themselves against terrorism but, at the same time, they needed to defend their common democratic culture. However, these values were threatened by a state of emergency which, although temporary at the outset, would gradually become permanent and in so doing restrict certain rights and freedoms. While it was true that each country could devise a set of measures to ensure security and public order and that co-operation in this field was desirable, it would be better to define who should decide what constituted this threat and who should verify whether or not the concept had been unnecessarily broadened. The only acceptable restrictions were those that were necessary in a democratic

society and only public debate, including within parliaments, could make it possible to determine what those restrictions should be. The law enforcement and security forces should not exceed the framework of action laid down by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Sir Roger Gale said that those who had experienced the London bombings were well aware of the bitter taste of the tragedies which had recently befallen the citizens of several countries. All our cities today were potential targets of terrorists. Mr Kox had rightly raised the question of politicians who played on the feeling of Islamophobia. The so-called “Islamic State” was a criminal organisation which had nothing to do with Islam. The term “war” was appropriate, since one also spoke of the war against drugs or organised crime. The Assembly was urged to support the UN resolution calling states to take all necessary anti-terrorist measures. In order to protect human rights, it was also essential to protect the rule of law.

Ms Mateu Pi wished to express her solidarity with all the countries that had experienced terrorist attacks. It was deplorable that over the previous 15 years the situation had deteriorated and fear was gradually taking hold. Before talking about safeguarding democratic values, human rights and the rule of law, it was essential to talk about the economic and strategic interests of certain states. The financing of terrorism was the heart of the problem. Neither oil nor arms could be sold or transported to their destination without complicity.

Ms Wurm conveyed her condolences to the countries concerned, which included France, Tunisia, Russia and Mali. It was imperative not to confuse the debate on terrorism with the debate on migrants. The allocation of migrants among the various countries would be the best expression of European solidarity. The fight against terrorism had led to a toughening of laws and the granting of additional powers to the law enforcement agencies and secret services. These measures had to go hand in hand with enhanced parliamentary oversight as was the case in Austria where a parliamentary sub-committee looked at the activities of the secret services.

Mr Fischer conveyed the determination of the main German political forces to help France combat terrorism. It was essential to assert our common principles which included tolerance. Nevertheless, the European Union must also fulfil its mandate to protect its external borders. Certain terrorists had arrived in Europe by avoiding these checks and it was for this reason that citizens displayed some reluctance with regard to the migrants. The debate on the choice of terms also concerned the name “Islamic State”. It was not a state, even though this organisation was creating an ever growing number of institutions close to those of a state. Military intervention needed to be considered at UN level.

The President **closed** the debate.

11. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MR MYKOLA GNATOVSKYY, CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (CPT)

The President welcomed Mr Gnatovskyy.

Mr Gnatovskyy thanked the Assembly for this opportunity to discuss the successes and challenges of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) established 25 years previously. The CPT’s role was to carry out visits of places of deprivation of liberty. The number of such places was constantly growing and now included police stations, prisons, psychiatric hospitals, detention centres for young offenders, persons placed under house arrest and, more recently, centres for persons being transferred to their countries of origin. In its work, the CPT was guided by the Convention for the Prevention of Torture and the European Convention on Human Rights, more particularly Article 3, and the case law of the Court. To begin with, the CPT had focused its efforts on prevention, while the Court had taken action after the event, but in more recent years this difference was disappearing. For example, today the Court could play the prevention card, with its pilot judgments procedure, and the CPT’s conclusions were quoted in the judgment recitals. The Assembly had always supported the CPT’s action. It elected its members, ensuring a multidisciplinary and apolitical composition. Member states were constantly asked to comply with the national expert selection arrangements laid down by the Assembly. In addition, the Assembly took action on the texts published by the CPT which were of a general scope or which related to a particular country. In 2015, the CPT issued a public statement on Bulgaria. Public statements were used in the rare cases in which the CPT’s recommendations had not been acted upon and in which the situation continued to deteriorate. The Assembly’s reaction had been exemplary and there had been an exchange with the Bulgarian delegation. Moreover, the Justice Minister, Mr Ivanov, had reacted positively and constructively. The Assembly’s recommendations, such as the one on “The fate of seriously ill detainees in Europe” drew the attention of the CPT to existing problems. The Assembly could

support the CPT's work by putting its older recommendations back on the agenda and helping solve the problem of prison overcrowding and the impunity of those who had committed acts of violence against detainees.

Mr Ivanov, the Bulgarian Justice Minister, conveyed his condolences to the countries which had suffered the terrorist attacks. The work of the CPT would be very important in the context of the fight against terrorism. Security considerations should not lead us to forget what they were there to protect, namely human rights. Bulgaria had been the subject of a CPT public statement, which had prompted several reforms aimed at improving the country's prison infrastructure and staff training.

In reply to **Mr Kox**, who had asked about the best way of ensuring that the national authorities acted on the CPT's recommendations, **Mr Gnatovskyy** said that the Convention for the Prevention of Torture had been drafted in a spirit of co-operation with those states which shared the values of the Council of Europe. To support its recommendations, the CPT asked for the assistance of other Council of Europe bodies or used public statements. To supplement this, consideration could be given to the speedier publication of reports or an automatic publication procedure.

Mr Díaz Tejera expressed regret at several findings of violations against Spain under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. **Mr Gnatovskyy** referred to the jurisdiction of the Court to decide that there had been a violation. The CPT did not have the same jurisdiction, even though it went into considerable details in certain cases. In this way, the CPT's action supplemented the work of the Court.

In response to **Ms Bilgehan** who had asked about the number of women on the CPT and the fate of vulnerable detainees such as people with disabilities or LGBTI persons, **Mr Gnatovskyy** said that, although there were no quotas, the under-representation of women was a matter of concern for the CPT. The current proportion stood at 40%. The CPT's country reports always contained a chapter on the subject of vulnerable detainees. The CPT was not in favour of establishments exclusively for LGBTI prisoners, as this would be contrary to several international standards. With regard to ill detainees, the appropriate care must be provided and a review should be carried out as to whether their detention was necessary.

The President thanked **Mr Gnatovskyy**.

12. DRAFT DECLARATION

AS/Per (2015) 08

Ms Grozdanova, Chair of the Bulgarian delegation, expressed her regret at the current context of conflicts in Europe, the terrorist attacks and the migration crisis in which Bulgaria was about to take up its second Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. "Unity creates strength", the slogan of the Bulgarian Chairmanship, which had its roots in the history of the formation of modern Bulgaria, described the best way of addressing the challenges. But why unite and around what? The Declaration reasserted the fundamental principles of the Organisation. One could not ignore the suffering of victims or the tyranny which had caused this suffering. Democratic security was a prerequisite of social and economic security. The Helsinki Final Act, which was celebrating its 40th anniversary, remained the foundation of contemporary international relations. Its principles included refraining from the threat or use of force, the inviolability of frontiers, the territorial integrity of states, the peaceful settlement of disputes, co-operation among states and fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law. In commemorating the Helsinki Final Act, the Parliamentary Assembly was paying tribute to the common European heritage. This document showed what was possible when states endeavoured to set aside their differences and strive for common understanding. For the challenges facing Europe, both within and around its borders, called for a common response from the Council of Europe member states. To this end, the Declaration suggested the holding of a summit of Heads of State and Government in order to reassert at the highest political level their commitment to the common values and principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law upheld by the Organisation.

The President welcomed this initiative by the Bulgarian delegation.

Mr Nicoletti thanked the delegation for this initiative. A summit was necessary in this historic period in which we were searching for new ways to deal with different challenges. It would be important to define in advance the Assembly's role in the preparation and holding of the summit. The Bureau could address this at its next meeting. Subsequently, the Assembly could look at these proposals during the January part-session in the light of the scheduled political debates. Without such a proactive approach, the whole exercise would be just a mere formality.

Mr Kox felt that the idea of a new summit was an appropriate one and concurred with Mr Nicoletti. At the last summit in 2005, the members of the Assembly had not been able to play a leading part.

The President instructed the Secretariat to consider how the Assembly could make a bigger contribution to the preparation of a summit.

The declaration **was adopted**.

13. OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS

a. Observation of the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan (4 October 2015)

Doc. 13920

*Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Ms Meritxell Mateu Pi (Andorra, ALDE)*

The rapporteur thanked the members of the Ad hoc Committee for their very relevant contributions which had helped with the drafting of the report. Kyrgyzstan was the only parliamentary democracy in the region. Kyrgyz women were cultivated and often occupied positions of responsibility. It was therefore regrettable to see that instances of abduction and rape had recently surfaced. The electorate had had a broad choice and could exercise their choice freely; the election campaign had been calm; voting and the count had been transparent. Nonetheless, a number of Venice Commission recommendations had not been taken into account in the amendments to the electoral legislation, in particular the constitutional right of all citizens to take part in elections in appropriate conditions. In addition, the Central Election Commission officials with whom the Ad hoc Committee had been in contact had not been sufficiently co-operative and had refused to answer certain questions; a number of electors had not registered because they had been reluctant to provide their biometric data. There had been misuse of administrative resources and a lack of transparency with regard to campaign funding. The system for scanning ballot papers had raised questions as to the confidentiality of the vote as the voters' choice could be visible.

Mr Schennach commented that the same voter registration system based on biometric data had been used in the elections in the "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Several people had been unable to vote as they had not been registered despite the fact that there were many ways of proving their identity. This issue needed to be raised to the ODIHR/OSCE. It was sad to note that there were still countries where family honour took precedence over the physical integrity of women.

Ms Wurm confirmed that many electors had not registered because of fears over the confidentiality of data. There was a feeling that Kyrgyzstan had served as an experiment for this voting system with the aim of subsequently extending it to other countries. However, this type of voting raised many problems on which a close eye needed to be kept in the future. It was important to report the abductions and other similar practices in Council of Europe member states.

The rapporteur concurred with the speakers with regard to plans to replace traditional voting with a system using biometric data. Vigilance was called for.

The Committee **took note** of the report.

b. Observation of the presidential election in Belarus (11 October 2015)

Doc. 13921

*Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Mr Reha Denemeç (Turkey, EC)*

The rapporteur said that Belarus needed to make considerable effort to be able to lay claim to genuinely democratic elections in a competitive political environment. The evaluation of elections was not solely about polling day, even though the Ad hoc Committee had concluded that the voting had been conducted in a transparent manner and in the presence of international observers. The ODIHR/OSCE had been able to deploy long-term observers without any restrictions or conditions. However, improvements were needed to enhance the effectiveness of the observation process. Co-operation with civil society was appreciated. Before the beginning of the election campaign, political prisoners had been freed. The Ad hoc Committee had then called on the authorities to continue improving the human rights situation in the country. Misuse of administrative resources had been reported. Both natural and legal persons could finance the election campaign through donations. Nonetheless, some people with whom the Ad hoc Committee had spoken had expressed their fears of possible pressure from donors to the election campaign. The Electoral Code

provided for free airtime and free space in the public print media for all candidates. However, despite the announced principle of equity, the public media had covered the institutional activities of the outgoing president in a way that was favourable to him. It was also necessary to review the current voting system comprising two rounds in which there must be a 50% turnout of all registered voters.

Mr Gunnarsson had been surprised by the lack of real debate. Even President Lukashenko had not campaigned in the traditional manner using debates. The culture of discussion, which was inherent to democracy, must be reintroduced with the help of not only the Council of Europe but also the national political parties.

Ms Vesaité said that in the polling stations to which she had gone, the results had put the “against all” option in second place. The opposition’s action had been barely visible and ordinary people had told her that their main concern was security and stability, particularly in the light of the events in Ukraine. Surprisingly, members of the local election commissions were not representatives of the political forces, as was the case in several countries, but representatives of state-linked associations, such as women’s and youth associations or trade unions.

The rapporteur agreed with the impression of a tacit contract between the people of Belarus and the President, consisting of a trade-off between, on the one hand, stability and social security and, on the other, democratic freedoms. Nonetheless, the ground was favourable for the implementation of the Council of Europe’s standards.

The Committee **took note** of the report.

c. Observation of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (1 November 2015)

Doc. 13923

*Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE)*

The rapporteur welcomed the report of the Ad hoc Committee, the Bureau’s unanimous approval of which had put an end to the discussion on certain regulatory aspects that had emerged during the mission. On this occasion, the Parliamentary Assembly had been the only institution in the international mission on the ground. Previously, there had been a discussion over the possibility of carrying out a mission. The political context, with the detention of several human rights activists, had not been favourable. Once on the ground, the mission had been divided into sixteen teams. The irregularities observed had included ballot box stuffing on two occasions, the siting of video surveillance cameras which could cast doubt on the confidentiality of the vote and unequal media access for candidates. Mr Schennach had provided considerable input to the drafting of the text which reflected a consensus and took account of the human rights situation. Some weeks after the elections, a number of colleagues had forwarded, including to the rapporteur, their dissenting opinion on the text of the report. There was nothing wrong with such an approach. However, the alternative statement drafted by certain members of the Socialist Group was not in compliance with the Rules of Procedure. This alternative statement had been distributed during the press conference and its wording suggested that it was the official statement of the observation mission.

Ms Kavaddia explained that there had been another statement, reproduced in the appendix to the report, drafted by the members of the Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) in order to reflect certain developments and the concerns arising therefrom which had not featured in the initial report. The revised report, to which the UEL fully subscribed, included those points. The Azerbaijan authorities were urged to uphold human rights for the well-being of their people.

Mr Schennach, member of the Ad hoc Committee and Chair of the Monitoring Committee had sought to align some of the points of view expressed in the report and in the above-mentioned statements in order to reach a compromise. His efforts had borne fruit and had helped ensure the unanimous adoption of the text. However, this consensus did not prevent the report from sending a strong signal to the authorities that there was a need to reform the electoral system. There was unequal media access by the opposition and government supporters. In addition, unless people had a current account, they could not stand for election. This rule excluded several potential candidates.

Ms Schou described a worsening of the human rights situation in Azerbaijan. Several human rights activists were today in prison. There was also a worsening of the situation regarding freedom of association and freedom of expression. The Assembly’s decision to send an observation mission in the absence of the OSCE/ODIHR had been a controversial one. As for the final report, it made no mention of the fact that the main opposition party had decided to boycott the elections. Moreover, its conclusions that Azerbaijan had

taken a further step towards democratic elections were surprising as they contradicted the findings of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the position adopted by the Assembly in June during the debate on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan.

Mr Díaz Tejera thanked the rapporteur for his efforts to find agreement between the various views expressed. The Ad hoc Committee had been tasked with observing the electoral process. The general assessment of the human rights situation in a given country was the task of the Monitoring Committee. The findings of the Ad hoc Committee related not solely to electoral standards; they also took into account an assessment of the situation compared with previous ballots. The Committee had felt that there had been progress in this respect.

The rapporteur thanked Ms Kavaddia for the constructive attitude of the UEL regarding the drafting of the dissenting statement. Mr Schennach had quite rightly referred to this surprising rule making entitlement to stand for election conditional on having a bank account. It was true that the decision to observe these elections had been a controversial one, but it had been taken democratically. The election observation mission examined only one aspect of democratic functioning and the overall evaluation was the task of the Monitoring Committee. Nonetheless, the report described the context of the elections, the Assembly resolutions and the conclusions of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Venice Commission and contained the dissenting statements. This reflected a desire to produce an exhaustive report.

The Standing Committee **took note** of the report.

d. Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Turkey (1 November 2015) Doc. 13922

*Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC)*

The rapporteur welcomed the excellent co-operation within the international observation mission. Unlike the elections held in April 2014, these elections had taken place in a challenging security context. During the election campaign there had been several attacks on party premises and members, and restrictions on the freedom of the media. Consequently, it was difficult to talk of free elections. This cast a shadow on the results. Several recommendations were given at the end of the report. It was gratifying to note that the recommendation on prisoner votes had been implemented. It would be necessary to monitor the situation in Turkey, particularly with regard to the peace process with the Kurds.

Ms Bilgehan thanked the rapporteur for his impartial work. The observation mission had taken place in an atmosphere of uncertainty. For the first time, the members of the mission had been unable to go to one part of the country for security reasons. Fortunately, voting had taken place in a peaceful atmosphere. The result had surprised even the winning AKP party which had obtained 49% of the vote. However, there was a second half of the electorate which supported other political projects. Two renowned journalists had been remanded in custody which, with regard to practices in Turkey, revealed an ongoing situation. One of these journalists had recently received an award in Strasbourg.

The President congratulated Ms Bilgehan for her courage and paid tribute to Mr Gross who had taken part in 90 election observation missions.

The Committee **took note** of the report.

14. LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

a. Access to justice and the Internet: potential and challenges Doc. 13918

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:
Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE)*

The rapporteur said that the report focused on the future of the dispute resolution system. The current trend towards the merging of courts reduced access to traditional litigation, which was often long and costly. In response, in part, to this challenge and given the development of information and communication technology (ICT), new online dispute resolution (ODR) procedures had appeared in both the private and public sectors. The Assembly had a responsibility to assess these trends from the point of view of respect for human rights. There were primarily three forms of ODR: online negotiation, online mediation and online arbitration. These were ways of facilitating access to justice by resolving disputes more quickly, more economically and in a less conflictual manner than traditional litigation. Nonetheless, the use of ODR gave rise to certain risks

relating to technical issues, inequalities in individuals' access to online resources, privacy issues and problems regarding the enforcement of decisions. Consequently, it was essential to preserve the rights guaranteed by Articles 6 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, ODR depersonalised the process which relied initially on personal relationships, making them unsuitable for disputes involving minors or for questions of domestic violence. Accordingly, promoting these alternative dispute resolution procedures should not be the sole response to cost-related challenges impeding access to the courts, as the main objective was to increase the efficiency of the justice system. For example, ITC could improve traditional court proceedings, through the use of videoconferencing for remote witness testimony or by creating more online databases. The draft resolution called on member states to encourage the promotion of ODR mechanisms while at the same time ensuring that the appropriate guarantees were provided.

The draft resolution **was adopted** [Resolution 2081 (2016)].

b. The fate of critically ill detainees in Europe

Doc. 13919
Doc. 13924
Amendments

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:
Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC)*

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (for opinion):
Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC)*

The rapporteur said that the aim of the report was to ensure that no-one died in detention. The lack of appropriate care, with due regard for an individual's dignity, would be a violation of human rights, as shown by the extensive case law of the European Court of Human Rights and other international bodies. When the prognosis for survival was very short, the person in question should be released. It was gratifying to note during the visits made that the national authorities in question were not opposed to the principle of release on compassionate grounds. The report contained examples of legislation and practices regarding temporary and permanent compassionate release of detainees.

The rapporteur for opinion congratulated the rapporteur. The rule guaranteeing equal access to care for all the population was often not applied in the case of detainees. In its opinion, the Committee put forward amendments focusing more on drafting accuracy, except with regard to the possibility of giving birth at a facility outside the prison.

Mr Destexhe welcomed the report which dealt with a problem which was little known among the public at large. Even though the report mentioned only certain countries, all countries were concerned, including Belgium. It would be desirable, in a separate report, to look at the treatment provided for chronic illnesses, which were often dealt with less effectively than emergencies.

Mr Ghilechi, Chair of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, paid tribute to the rapporteur, the most prolific author of Assembly reports, and concurred with his assertion that nobody should die in prison. The Committee had been unanimous in proposing amendments with the exception of the amendment regarding giving birth outside prison, which had given rise to a discussion. The state had an obligation to provide appropriate care for chronic illnesses, but in the case of seriously ill or elderly detainees, an alternative solution needed to be found.

The rapporteur thanked the speakers. In addition to the treatment of detainees suffering from chronic illnesses, the care of detainees with disabilities could be looked at in a separate report.

The Committee **examined** and **adopted** the amendments tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

The draft resolution and the draft recommendation **were adopted** [Resolution 2082 (2015) and Recommendation 2082 (2015)].

15. MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS
Chinese migration to Europe: challenges and opportunities

Doc. 13843

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:
Mr Thierry Mariani (France, EPP/CD)*

In the absence of the rapporteur, **Ms Fiala** presented the report which provided a general overview of Chinese migration to Europe, highlighting the challenges to be addressed and the opportunities to be seized. Recent years had seen a significant rise in various forms of irregular migration from China and illicit human trafficking. To this should be added the insecure working conditions of Chinese migrants which were often tantamount to a new form of slavery, and friction with the competing work sectors on account of the low labour costs. The issue of integration also arose, particularly in eastern Europe where Chinese migrants settled only temporarily. However, Chinese migrants also represented an opportunity. By moving into struggling sectors, the migrants had succeeded in revitalising them. Furthermore, Europe was the first-choice destination for Chinese students, which provided European countries with an opportunity to hold onto this highly qualified workforce. In order to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities, the Council of Europe member states should co-operate with the Chinese authorities to prevent trafficking in migrants, deal with the insecure working conditions and draw up policies to encourage this highly qualified workforce to remain in Europe. Integration projects were also essential. The draft resolution contained suggestions for member states to maximise the benefits of increased migration between China and Europe.

Ms Fiala proposed deleting paragraphs 6.4 and 6.8 which called, respectively, for providing more legal opportunities for Chinese labour migrants to work in Europe and for facilitating the creation of Chinese schools in regions with a large Chinese community.

Sir Roger Gale advocated caution regarding the creation of Chinese schools.

The amendments **were adopted**.

The draft resolution was **adopted** [Resolution 2083 (2015)].

Mr Nicoletti replaced the President in the Chair.

16. CULTURE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND MEDIA

Draft Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events

Doc. 13913

Doc. 13752

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:
Mr Valeri Jablianov (Bulgaria, SOC)*

The rapporteur said that work on the draft convention had begun in 2012. However, the final text included current security considerations. This draft had been preceded by the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sport Events and in particular at Football Matches (ETS No. 120) which over time had become poorly suited to today's threats of violence. Accordingly, the Committee of Ministers had decided to initiate a new document based on an integrated approach which would take greater account of the impact of societal changes on football, and the nature and level of the associated risks. To this end, the draft was based on a multi-agency integrated approach towards safety, security and service. The concept of "safety" comprised all measures to address the dangers to health during sports events. Security covered all measures to prevent violence both in and outside stadiums. Lastly, the service measures were aimed at making football and other sports events more enjoyable and welcoming for all. These three dimensions should be taken into account jointly. The draft convention provided a framework setting out a number of key principles which each state should adopt and apply in the light of its national legislation and circumstances. In order to improve the scope of the draft convention, a number of amendments had been proposed to introduce a specific reference to risk assessment, ensure the participation of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in the Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events to be set up under the convention, and to clarify the wording of the final clauses.

Ms Gambaro, Chair of the Committee, welcomed the initiative of the Committee of Ministers to draw up this draft convention which tied in perfectly with the ongoing deliberations of the Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events. The draft convention offered member states and partners a degree of flexibility which showed due regard for each national context and the independence of sports federations. Nonetheless, the draft should take into account the increasing terrorist threats by calling for a stronger police presence at sports events.

The draft opinion was **adopted** [Opinion 290 (2015)].

17. EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Promoting best practices in tackling violence against women

Doc. 13914

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:
Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC)*

The rapporteur, general rapporteur on violence against women, deplored the fact that violence against women was such a widespread phenomenon affecting one in three women in Europe. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women provided an opportunity for both women and men to work for a violence-free world. Although there was now broad awareness of the problem, the statistics were alarming. The Istanbul Convention – a major turning point – required the support of national parliaments to bring national legislation into line and to ensure its practical implementation. With the assistance of WAVE (Women against Violence Europe) the report identified best practice in the four areas of the Convention: prevention, protection of victims, prosecution of offenders and integrated policies. The first essential steps were ratification of the Convention, its implementation in the light of the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, improved co-ordination between the authorities and non-governmental organisations, and the gathering of relevant data. Financing was important as without it there would be no shelters for women wishing to escape violence. Combating violence against women was possible by means of practical action taken by the whole community.

Mr Arieu said that in its recent report, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had highlighted flagrant violations of women's rights in the territories occupied by the Russian Federation. These violations comprised sexual and sexist violence, including rape and murder, committed by the armed groups of the so-called people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, the violence against and intimidation of women civil society activists in Crimea, currently under Russian control, and the deteriorating conditions of displaced and refugee women in the conflict zones in Abkhazia and South Ossetia (Georgia). There should be zero tolerance of such violence. Recently, eight Ukrainian MPs had helped raise awareness of this problem by reading out victims' stories in parliament.

Ms Bilgehan expressed deep regret that violence against women was still a widespread and universal phenomenon. The victims of physical and psychological violence, genital mutilation and forced marriages could be counted in their millions. Women, often the victims of their partners, suffered in silence. It was imperative to establish an effective legal arsenal, including through the exchange of best practices. The Assembly and its Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination had always supported the Council of Europe's action in this field. National parliaments had an active role to play.

Ms Mikko welcomed the report. Gender equality and the elimination of violence against women would be the priorities of the Estonian Chairmanship which would begin in May 2016. Recently, the government had informed parliament of the preparations under way for ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

The draft resolution was **adopted** [Resolution 2084 (2015)].

18. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

19. NEXT MEETING

The Standing Committee **decided** to hold its next meeting in Paris on 4 March 2016.

The meeting **rose** at 5 pm.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

President of the Parliamentary Assembly / Présidente de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Mme Anne BRASSEUR Luxembourg

Chairpersons of Political Groups / Présidents des groupes politiques

M. Pedro AGRAMUNT Group of the European People's Party /
Groupe du Parti populaire européen

Mr Andreas GROSS Socialist Group /
Groupe socialiste

Mr Jordi XUCLÀ Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe /
Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe

Mr Samad SEYIDOV² European Conservatives Group /
Groupe des conservateurs européens

Mr Tiny KOX Group of the Unified European Left /
Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne

Vice-Presidents of the Assembly / Vice-président(e)s de l'Assemblée

Mr Piotr WACH Poland

M. René ROUQUET France

Mr Michele NICOLETTI Italy

Mr Axel E. FISCHER Germany

Ms Dana VÁHALOVÁ Czech Republic

Ms Ksenija KORENJAK KRAMAR Slovenia

Mr Volodymyr ARIEV Ukraine

Ms Dzhema GROZDANOVA Bulgaria

Mr Aleksandar NIKOLOSKI "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Mr Michael Aastrup JENSEN Denmark

Chairpersons of National Delegations / Président(e)s de délégations nationales

Mme Meritxell MATEU PI Andorre

Ms Hermine NAGHDALYAN Armenia

Ms Gisela WURM Austria

Mr Samad SEYIDOV Azerbaijan

M. Alain DESTEXHE Belgique

Ms Dzhema GROZDANOVA Bulgaria

Ms Dana VÁHALOVÁ Czech Republic

Mr Michael Aastrup JENSEN Denmark

Ms Marianne MIKKO Estonia

M. René ROUQUET France

Mr Axel E. FISCHER Germany

Ms Ioanetta KAVVADIA Greece

Mr Zsolt CSENGER-ZALÁN Hungary

Mr Karl GARÐARSSON Iceland

Mr Michele NICOLETTI Italy

Ms Inese LĪBIŅA-EGNERE Latvia

Ms Birutė VĖSAITĖ Lithuania

Mr Joseph DEBONO GRECH Malta

Mr Predrag SEKULIĆ Montenegro

Ms Ingjerd SCHOU Norway

Mr Piotr WACH Poland

Ms Aleksandra DJUROVIĆ Serbia

Ms Ksenija KORENJAK KRAMAR Slovenia

Mr Arcadio DÍAZ TEJERA Spain

² Acting Chairperson / Président en exercice

Mr Jonas GUNNARSSON	Sweden
Mme Doris FIALA	Suisse
Mr Aleksandar NIKOLOSKI	“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
Mr Volodymyr ARIEV	Ukraine
Sir Roger GALE	United Kingdom

**Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development /
Président de la Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable**

Mr Valeriu GHILETCHI	Republic of Moldova
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**Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media /
Présidente de la Commission de la culture, de la science, de l'éducation et des médias**

Ms Adele GAMBARO	Italy
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**Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination /
Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination**

Mme Gülsün BİLGEHAN	Turquie
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**Chairperson of Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the
Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) /**

**Président de la Commission pour le respect des obligations et engagements des Etats membres du
Conseil de l'Europe (Commission de suivi)**

Mr Stefan SCHENNACH	Austria
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**Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs /
Président de la Commission du règlement, des immunités et des affaires institutionnelles**

Mr Haluk KOÇ	Turkey
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**Rapporteurs (not members of the Standing Committee) /
Rapporteur(e)s (non-membres de la Commission permanente)**

Ms Sahiba GAFAROVA	Azerbaijan
Mr Valeri JABLIANOV	Bulgaria

Members of Parliament / Parlementaires

Mr Reha DENEMEÇ	Turkey
Mme Tülin ERKAL KARA	Turquie

Invited personalities / Personnalités invitées

Mr Daniel MITOV	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers / ministre des Affaires étrangères et Président du Comité des Ministres
Ms Tsetska TSACHEVA	President of the National Assembly / Présidente de l'Assemblée Nationale
Mr Hristo IVANOV	Minister for Justice / ministre de la Justice
Mr Mykola GNATOVSKYY	Chairperson of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) / Président du Comité européen pour la prévention de la torture et des peines ou traitements inhumains ou dégradants (CPT)

Delegation Secretaries / Secrétaires de délégations

M. Erick GARASA MINGORANCE	Andorre
Ms Sonja LANGENHAECK	Belgium
Mr Petar VITANOV	Bulgaria
Ms Veronika KRUPOVÁ	Czech Republic
Ms Kamilla KJELGAARD	Denmark
Ms Liisi VAHTRAMÄE	Estonia

Ms Maria FAGERHOLM	Finland
M. Xavier PINON	France
Mr Michael HILGER	Germany
Ms Voula SYRIGOS	Greece
Ms Judit GOTTSCHALL	Hungary
Ms Vilborg Ása GUÐJÓNSDÓTTIR	Iceland
Mr Martins OLEKŠS	Latvia
Ms Laura ŠUMSKIENĖ	Lithuania
Ms Anita HELLAND KJUS	Norway
Mme Hanna KUCHARSKA-LESZCZYNSKA	Pologne
Mr Vladimir FILIPOVIĆ	Serbia
Ms Alja ŠKIBIN	Slovenia
Ms Anette NILSSON	Sweden
Mr Daniel ZEHNDER	Switzerland
Mr Nicholas WRIGHT	United Kingdom

Secretaries of Political Groups / Secrétaires des Groupes politiques

Ms Denise O'HARA	EPP/CD / PPE/DC
Mme Francesca ARBOGAST	SOC
Ms Maria BIGDAY	ALDE / ADLE
Mr Tom VAN DIJCK	EC / CE
Ms Anna KOLOTOVA	UEL / GUE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée Parlementaire

Mr Wojciech SAWICKI	Secretary General / Secrétaire Général
Mr Mário MARTINS	Director General / Directeur Général
Mr Horst SCHADE	Director of General Services / Directeur des services généraux
Mr Mark NEVILLE	Head of the Private Office / Chef du Cabinet
Ms Sonia SIRTORI	Head of the Secretariat of the Bureau / Chef du Secrétariat du Bureau
Ms Ivi-Triin ODRATS	Secretary of the Bureau / Secrétaire du Bureau
Mme Kateryna GAYEVSKA	Secretary of the Standing Committee / Secrétaire de la Commission permanente
Mr Francesc FERRER	Deputy to the Head of the Communications Division / Adjoint au Chef de la Division de la Communication
Ms Sally-Ann HONEYMAN	Administrative Assistant, Table Office / Assistante administrative du Service de la séance
Mme Naouelle TEFIFEHA	Assistant of the Bureau / Assistante du Bureau
Mr Martin McMILLAN	Assistant of the Standing Committee / Assistant de la Commission permanente

Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe

M. Christophe POIREL	Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Ministers / Secrétaire Adjoint du Comité des Ministres
Mr Üwe MÜLLER	Political Advisor, Directorate of Political Affairs / Conseiller politique, Direction des affaires politiques
Mr Jeroen SCHOKKENBROEK	Executive Secretary of the CPT / Secrétaire exécutif du CPT

Other participants / Autres participants

Mr Yauheni KRYZHANOUSKI	Advisor to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly / Conseiller de la Présidente de l'Assemblée parlementaire
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Mr Ahmad SHAHIDOV

Head of Azerbaijan Institute for Democracy and Human Rights /
Chef de l'Institut Azerbaïdjanais pour la démocratie et des droits
de l'homme

Mme Katya TODOROVA

Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe /
Représentante Permanente de la Bulgarie auprès du Conseil de
l'Europe

Mr Latchezar TOSHEV

Honorary Associate of the Parliamentary Assembly / Associé
honoraire de l'Assemblée parlementaire

APPENDIX II

Decisions on documents tabled for references to committees

1. **Follow-up to Resolution 1903 (2012): promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Rouquet and other members of the Assembly
 Doc. [13885](#)

Reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

2. **Co-operation with the International Criminal Court: towards a concrete and expanded commitment**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Destexhe and other members of the Assembly
 Doc. [13888](#)

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

3. **Increased income inequalities are a threat to social cohesion**
Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
 Doc. [13889](#)

Reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

4. **Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Wurm and other members of the Assembly
 Doc. [13890](#)

Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons *for opinion*

5. **Gender equality and child maintenance**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Wurm and other members of the Assembly
 Doc. [13892](#)

Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*

6. **Ongoing maternal care for children**
Motion for a resolution tabled by the Earl of Dundee and other members of the Assembly
 Doc. [13894](#)

Transmission to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*

7. **Blacklisting of elected parliamentarians, counterproductive to parliamentary diplomacy**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kox and other members of the Assembly
 Doc. [13902](#)

Reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Introduction of sanctions against parliamentarians" (Ref. 4051)*

8. **25 years of the CPT, achievements and improvements needed**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Tiny KOX and other members of the Assembly
 Doc. [13909](#)

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

9. **Draft Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production (revised)**
Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers
 Doc. [13915](#)

Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

10. **Draft Protocol amending the European Landscape Convention (CETS No 176)**
Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers
Doc. [13916](#)

Reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*