



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

10 March 2014

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 7 March 2014 in Paris, with Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Assembly, and then with Mr René Rouquet, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Croatia, Estonia, Germany and the Russian Federation;
- approved changes in the composition of Assembly committees;
- took note of the draft agenda of the second Part-Session of the Assembly (7-11 April 2014);
- ratified the references proposed by the Bureau which are contained in the Appendix 1 hereafter;
- ratified the terms of reference of a general rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance and took note of the decision of the Bureau that general rapporteurs can keep their function after the expiry of their mandate until a new general rapporteur is appointed by the Committee concerned;
- held a current affairs debate on "The political crisis in Ukraine" and adopted a statement on the same subject, contained in Appendix 2 hereafter;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Ranko Krivokapić, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE;
- adopted the following texts on behalf of the Assembly:

Resolution 1980 (2014)

Increasing the reporting of suspected sexual abuse of children

Resolution 1981 (2014)

Europe's endangered heritage

Recommendation 2038 (2014)

Resolution 1982 (2014)

The European Convention on Human Rights: the need to reinforce

Recommendation 2039 (2014)

the training of legal professionals

- decided to hold its next meeting in Baku on 23 May 2013.

Ivi-Triin Odrats

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Director 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

APPENDIX 1

Decisions on documents tabled for references to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **The employment rights of female workers from Eastern Europe**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Badea and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 13400

Consultation of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *on a possible follow-up*

2. **Combating sexual violence against children: towards a successful conclusion of the ONE in FIVE campaign**
Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Doc. 13401

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

3. **Improving children's access to child-friendly health and social services**
Motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Doc. 13402

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

4. **Educational and cultural networks of communities living abroad**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Le Borgn' and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 13404

Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report* and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons *for opinion*

APPENDIX 2

Statement on the political crisis in Ukraine

The Parliamentary Assembly strongly supports Ukraine's territorial integrity and national sovereignty

Paris, 7 March 2014. The Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, meeting today in Paris, expressed its full support for the territorial integrity and national unity of Ukraine. It therefore strongly condemned the violation by the Russian Federation of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The actions of Russian military forces in the Crimean peninsula, as well as explicit threats of military actions in the rest of Ukraine's territory, are in direct violation of international law, including the UN Charter, the OSCE Helsinki Final Act, the Statute of the Council of Europe, as well as Russia's accession commitments.

The Standing Committee is especially concerned that the Council of Federation authorised the Russian President to use military force in the Crimea and it regrets the statements by both houses of the Russian parliament that supported calls for separatism and secessionism in an already tense region.

The Assembly expresses its full support for the legitimate new authorities in Kyiv and commends them for their restraint. It urges the authorities to refrain from any actions and rhetoric that could divide the Ukrainian society and undermine national unity. In order to strengthen national unity and the democratic development of the country, it is now important that as soon as possible a new constitution is adopted that is fully in line with Council of Europe standards and an early presidential election is held, followed by early parliamentary elections when the situation allows.

The Assembly stands ready to assist the Ukrainian authorities, and especially the Verkhovna Rada, in these processes.