



AS/Per (2016) PV 02

16 June 2016

Standing Committee

Minutes¹

**of the meeting held in Tallinn (Estonia)
on 27 May 2016**

¹ Approved by the Assembly on 20 June 2016.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting began at 9:30 am. with **Mr Agramunt**, President of the Assembly, in the chair.

The chairmanship would be the second for Estonia which was a staunch believer in democratic values. It came at a difficult moment: walls had sprung up between countries, and the terrorist threat was becoming a daily reality. Against this difficult background it was important to remain united around shared values and standards. A new initiative – “Terrorism: no hate, no fear” – would be launched during the next part-session. The aim of this would be to energise politicians, civil society players and ordinary people into defending the right and the freedom to live without fear and resisting all those groups that helped to spread feelings of insecurity in our society.

A statement by the President of the Assembly, published the day before, welcomed the release from prison of Ms Nadia Savchenko, a Ukrainian member of parliament and a member of the Assembly, and of Ms Khadija Ismayilova, a journalist from Azerbaijan.

2. WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR EIKI NESTOR, SPEAKER OF THE RIIGIKOGU

The Speaker of the Riigikogu welcomed the Standing Committee to Tallinn.

The chairmanship was of particular importance to Estonia, given the part which the Council of Europe had played in the country's development over the last 25 years. Soviet occupation ended in 1991 and in 1993 Estonia became a full member of the Council of Europe. Since then, Estonia had followed a path towards European integration, joining the European Union and NATO in 2004. This was a way of preserving national security and promoting common values. Today the country had moved forward on the path of development thanks to its European partners and international organisations, and Estonia was committed in turn to supporting these in an effort to build a stronger and more united Europe.

A free and peaceful Europe still remained more of an objective than a reality, however. In 2013 in Ukraine, hundreds of thousands of people had gathered on the Maidan to demand personal freedoms. Russia, strangely, saw this movement as a threat and invaded Ukraine in breach of all accepted principles. Two days ago the Ukrainian pilot, Ms Nadia Savchenko, captured in Ukraine in June 2014 and sentenced in Russia to 22 years in jail, had been freed. Mr Nestor was grateful to the Assembly for its efforts to obtain her release. The war in Ukraine was also one between the values of an open and tolerant society and an authoritarian regime. It was easier to sow fear and hatred than to build a society based on tolerance and mutual respect. The collapse of a repressive regime did not automatically translate into an open society. The creation of representative and responsible institutions was a long-term undertaking. Estonia, as a country that now led the way in personal freedoms, was happy to share its experience with other transitioning countries. The recent crisis over migrants had demonstrated the lack of trust that still existed in society.

Regarding priorities for the chairmanship, gender equality and children's rights were areas in which there was room for improvement, in Estonia too. Estonia would be ratifying the Lanzarote Convention in the course of its chairmanship and the Istanbul Convention in the next few years. The second-tier priorities were more “virtual” and concerned human rights and the Internet.

Although Estonia was well away from the migration routes, it nevertheless felt the effects of the phenomenon. International terrorism was also a problem affecting us all. The issue today was the building of credibility. It was important to get our message across as effectively as possible, and to provide coherent arguments in favour of an open society. Members of parliament had to engage with the public if they were to change existing perceptions of the world.

3. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MS MARINA KALJURAND, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ESTONIA, CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CM/Inf (2016) 12

CM/Inf (2016) 13

Ms Kaljurand welcomed the Standing Committee. The Estonian chairmanship would continue the work begun by the outgoing Bulgarian chairmanship in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law to which it would add a digital dimension. The instruments of the Council of Europe, its extensive network of state and non-state actors within and beyond Europe, and its potential to develop appropriate working

methods, were valuable assets when it came to safeguarding human rights both on- and off-line. A number of events would be held in Strasbourg and Brussels as part of measures to implement the Council of Europe's Internet Governance Strategy (2016-2019). Gender equality was central to the protection of human rights and to economic growth and sustainability. The 2014-2017 Gender Equality Strategy aimed to increase the impact and visibility of gender equality standards, supporting their implementation in member states. Its goal was to achieve the advancement and empowerment of women and the effective realisation of gender equality in Council of Europe member states. A high-level conference with the title "Are we there yet? Assessing progress, inspiring action" would be held in Tallinn on 30 June and 1 July. On the matter of children's rights, a number of the Strategy's themes would be prioritised, with emphasis on three key areas: child participation, children's rights in the digital environment, and children in migration. These topics would be addressed on 4 November in Tallinn at a high-level conference. A side event, also on the subject of children in the migration crisis, was planned during Estonia's presidency of UNICEF. Action against the sexual abuse of children was a priority. Estonia would be ratifying the Lanzarote Convention.

In addition to these priorities, Estonia would push forward in other areas of political importance to the Council of Europe and further improve the Council's co-operation with other international organisations. Estonia would be keen to contribute to the keeping of peace and security in the world by becoming a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period of 2020–2021.

Two years had passed since the illegal occupation of Crimea, which Estonia did not recognise, and the beginning of Russia's military action in Eastern Ukraine. The situation in the Donbass continued to deteriorate, hence the need to deliver first on the security provisions of the Minsk Agreements before moving on to local elections, as well as other political and socio-economic measures. Human rights in Crimea were a cause for concern. The missions of the Council of Europe and other international human rights organisations should be granted access to the region. The Council of Europe had drawn up a 45-million-euro action plan for Ukraine, with Estonia among the donors. Recent developments in Georgia's occupied areas of Abkhazia and South Ossetia were also alarming. The Secretary General's consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia underlined the need to make full use of all relevant instruments to ensure monitoring of the situation in these regions.

Estonia also appreciated the Secretary General's efforts to uphold the convention system in the current climate, which was difficult. The migrant crisis was an urgent issue for the whole of Europe. Estonia, which favoured solidarity, took part in joint operations by FRONTEX and would participate in the proposed European Border and Coast Guard Agency; it supported the countries of the Western Balkans and had contributed 2.8 million euros towards implementation of the agreement between the European Union and Turkey. In addition, it had paid out 4 million euros to help tackle the migration crises in the Middle East, Turkey and North Africa.

Replying to **Mr Kox**, who welcomed the release of Ms Savchenko and Ms Ismayilova but was alarmed by the politically motivated prosecutions of Turkish members of parliament, **Ms Kaljurand** promised to raise this issue when she met with her Turkish counterpart. The freeing of Ms Ismayilova was a major step for Azerbaijan, though there was a long way still to go.

Mr Küçükcan said that terrorism was a daily threat. Turkey was working hard to control the threats posed by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and so-called Islamic State, and needed everyone to lend their support. There was a strong demand for investigations into terrorism, which meant lifting the immunity of certain MPs. What were the future prospects for the agreement on migrants between Turkey and the European Union? **Ms Kaljurand** was optimistic about the agreement's prospects, provided everyone continued to co-operate. Implementing the agreement would take time. The difficulty of managing the migration crisis demanded that all states co-operate. Visa liberalisation required Turkey to deliver on a number of undertakings, for example to amend its anti-terrorism law. The Committee of Ministers had not yet taken a decision on the position of the Turkish MPs. It was essential for pluralism to be guaranteed within a parliament.

Mr Arieu thanked Ms Kaljurand for her accurate portrayal of the situation in Ukraine. More than 100 people captured in the Donbass and 20 Crimean Tatars were still being held illegally in Russian prisons. Co-operation between Russia and the Parliamentary Assembly depended on a number of conditions being met – an end to the occupation of Crimea, demilitarisation of eastern Ukraine and implementation of the Minsk Agreements. What were the chances of the Russian delegation returning, in the absence of any progress on those matters? **Ms Kaljurand** said that the examination of national delegations' credentials was a matter for the Assembly.

Mr Daems asked if the chairmanship would be doing anything in particular about cybercrime and the deep Web. He also wondered how a proper balance could be found between privacy and security. **Ms Kaljurand**

said that the Internet was not lawless territory. The Convention on Cybercrime, to which member states were invited to accede, was one example of an existing legal framework. It would be easier if the dividing line between respect for privacy and the security aspects were the same for everyone. The Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (No. 108) might be a first step towards achieving that.

Ms Centemero welcomed the fact that gender equality was to be a priority. She had three questions: what assistance was given to member states experiencing difficulty in enforcing the equality principle, what action could be taken against online expressions of hatred against women, and what help could be given to migrant women? **Ms Kaljurand** explained that the Internet and communication technology were cross-cutting priorities applicable to all areas, including women's rights, which would make women better able to manage their families and working lives. The Internet was important because it guaranteed access to rights everywhere, even if the use of it was not without its negative sides, hate speech for example. The situation of migrant women would be discussed at the Tallinn conference on 30 June and 1 July.

Replying to **Sir Roger Gale** who asked whether the European Union would be continuing its sanctions against Russia in the light of recent developments in Ukraine and South Ossetia (Georgia), **Ms Kaljurand** said that Estonia's position was that sanctions should continue until such time as the Minsk Agreements were implemented. That position was shared by other Member States of the European Union. When the current round of sanctions ended, it would be extended for a further six months.

Mr Gunnarsson returned to the migrant crisis, pointing out that Sweden had made a major contribution to managing it. What would the chairmanship be doing to improve LGBTI rights, given that these varied enormously in the countries of Europe? **Ms Kaljurand** said that Estonia had agreed to take 550 migrants. So far, 20 families of persons genuinely wishing to settle in Estonia rather than move on straight away to Germany had been accepted. Estonia had a responsible attitude to integration, enrolling the children in school and allocating a social worker to each family. The chairmanship would also be calling on member states to comply with the Committee of Ministers' 2010 recommendation "on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity", which had been revised in 2014.

Replying to **Mr Németh** who asked if Russia might work to strengthen human rights and democracy, **Ms Kaljurand** said that the best guarantee of Estonian security was a Russia that respected human rights. However, it was currently an aggressive country. No country had the right to threaten Europe's security and any that did had to be called to order by restrictive measures, even if those impacted on the economies of European countries. The Assembly's work in the Magnitsky case was important.

In answer to **Ms Kavvadia** who asked if the level of solidarity in managing the migrant crisis was thought satisfactory and if the problem could be solved by building walls, **Ms Kaljurand** said that Estonia was helping the law enforcement services in Greece and Serbia and taking part in FRONTEX operations. The first imperative was to deal with the causes of the crisis. Ways of preserving the Schengen agreements needed to be discussed. "Walls" were a possibility, but only if they were temporary and only if the procedure did not breach human rights.

Replying to **Ms Vésaité** who asked about the visa liberalisation and whether the same conditions ought to be applied to Georgia, Ukraine and Turkey, **Ms Kaljurand** said that a recent assessment of Georgia and Ukraine had been positive and that the ball was now in the European Union's court. Turkey had not yet met all the requisite conditions.

Ms Wurm wanted to see all member states ratifying the Istanbul Convention as soon as possible. Furthermore, how could the number of female diplomats be increased? Returning to the migration crisis, Austria, the country receiving the third-highest number of asylum applications after Germany and Sweden, was facing major logistical and financial difficulties. **Ms Kaljurand** said that Estonia would be ratifying the Istanbul Convention in 2017. More female diplomats were needed to serve as role models for girls and reverse the current pattern: there were just two female foreign ministers on the NATO Council and the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union, and there had never been a female Secretary-General of the UN.

Ms Leskaj found it unfortunate that often it had to be women themselves who raised the issue of gender equality. How was the situation in the Republic of Moldova viewed? **Ms Kaljurand** conceded that this country, which had had a succession of different governments in the space of one and a half years, needed help. The Moldovan foreign minister had given an assurance that reforms would be forthcoming. Estonia, and the Baltic states generally, were willing to share their experience of political leadership.

Ms Guzenina took over the Chair from the President.

4. EXAMINATION OF NEW CREDENTIALS

Doc. 14071

The Standing Committee **examined** the credentials of new members and substitutes, as set out in Doc. 14071.

5. CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

Commissions (2016) 05
Addendum

The Standing Committee **approved** the changes in the composition of Assembly committees, as set out in the document Commissions (2016) 05 and Addendum.

6. REQUEST FOR A CURRENT AFFAIRS DEBATE

The Chairperson informed the Standing Committee that no request for a current affairs debate had been submitted.

7. AGENDA

AS/Per (2016) OJ 02 rev.

The revised draft agenda was **adopted**.

8. THIRD PART-SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (20 - 24 June 2016)

AS/Bur (2016) 31 rev.

As required by Rule 27.4 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, the Standing Committee **took note** of the draft agenda for the third part-session of 2016.

9. REFERENCES, TRANSMISSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

AS/Per (2016) 07

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

The President resumed the chair.

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

No request had been submitted.

11. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MR MARIN MRČELA, PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP OF STATES AGAINST CORRUPTION (GRECO) AND MR DANIEL THELESKLAFF, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE EVALUATION OF ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING MEASURES AND THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (MONEYVAL)

Mr Mrčela gave a brief description of the work of GRECO, a body that currently had 49 member states including the USA. GRECO presented evaluations of the work done by member states to counter corruption. States had to demonstrate what they had done or intended to do in order to comply with GRECO's recommendations. GRECO's experience had shown that all effective measures against corruption required a co-ordinated and integrated strategy together with a high degree of transparency in political, administrative and economic life. Coercive and preventive measures were an addition, not an alternative. Some risks could be eliminated at the preventive stage before criminal sanctions were applied. Although some parts of a policy of prevention were in place, states still lacked targeted policies and policies to manage corruption risks. The results of investigations into senior public figures were also important.

A recent change in attitudes meant that corruption was no longer seen as a victimless crime but as a threat to the rule of law and equal access to public resources and services. Sadly, half the European population believed that bribes and abuses of power were widespread in political parties. Other polls revealed a distrust of persons holding elected office. For this reason GRECO's 4th evaluation round was dealing with the prevention of corruption in respect of members of parliament, while the 3rd round had dealt with the funding of political parties and the forthcoming 5th round would address corruption in central governments and law enforcement agencies.

The "Panama Papers" had added to the growing feeling of distrust of the political class. This perception was a fresh blow to democracy and gave a boost to unhealthy political movements. It necessitated a shared response and a plan, the establishment of multiple think tanks and the adoption of legislation. But the overwhelming factor would be political determination to achieve a culture of transparency and integrity.

Mr Thelesklaf gave a brief account of the workings of MONEYVAL, whose chief remit was to evaluate member states against standards developed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and adopt evaluation reports. A negative report could be damaging to the state concerned: its banks risked losing access to the world financial system and investment might decline. The aim of the new evaluation round, launched recently, was to analyse the efficacy of implementation rather than technical aspects. MONEYVAL's remit also covered action against terrorist financing. Terrorism and financing went hand in hand. Global standards on action against terrorist financing – such as the obligation to identify, assess and understand risks, punish financing as a separate offence, apply targeted sanctions and freeze terrorists' assets – had been in place ever since 9/11. Together with FATF, MONEYVAL had launched a "Terrorist Financing Fact-Finding Initiative" to conduct an urgent review of current levels of compliance with the main international standards.

Money laundering was used by criminals to conceal the illicit source of their assets. Tracking the money was as important as prosecuting the offender. Depriving criminals of their ill-gotten gains made illegal activities less attractive and stopped them from funding criminal activity. MONEYVAL had decided to work on large-scale corruption, which was especially detrimental to democratic trust, by targeting senior government figures in member states.

Publication of the "Panama Papers" showed that the battle had to go on. Although legal, corporate vehicles attracted those keen to disguise the proceeds of crime before feeding them, lawfully, into the world financial system. The fraud risk could be reduced by the introduction of mandatory disclosure of asset sources, their beneficial owners, and other information. The G20 had asked FATF to submit proposals on how to combat abuses of financial systems. This would be debated at the next plenary meeting of FATF in June, which the MONEYVAL delegation would be attending. Member States of the European Union would have to comply with the 4th Money Laundering Directive by keeping a central register of beneficial ownership. The aim of the latest anti-corruption summit had been to eliminate occupations conducive to corrupting behaviour. And the recent agreement by the G5 Group of the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France and Spain to exchange information on companies registered in tax havens was a major step forward.

Mr Kox wondered how it was that, despite the instruments to prevent terrorist financing, the so-called Islamic State group was still able to receive funds. The Netherlands Parliament had set up an *ad hoc* committee to analyse GRECO's recommendations and suggest ways of ensuring compliance with them. When was the European Union likely to become a full member of the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption?

Mr Heer was interested in the US membership of GRECO, notably with regard to the management of offshore companies.

Mr Daems asked if the illegal data leak by the press in the "Panama Papers" affair was justifiable. Might this type of leak require a new legal framework, notably with regard to *bona fide* companies?

Mr Garðarsson said that Iceland's Prime Minister had resigned in the wake of the "Panama Papers" leaks. Had the measures taken by the European Union and other European countries been sufficient?

Mr Silva said that the action against corruption should focus first on education of the general public, before looking at politicians. Greater use should be made of social networks.

Mr Küçükcan warned that the current crisis in Syria had been fed by a range of criminal activities, notably human trafficking which had raised 5 million euros last year.

Ms Gambaro emphasised the importance of prevention, which should start with awareness-raising campaigns in schools.

Mr Mrčela welcomed the initiative of the Netherlands Parliament which showed that GRECO's recommendations were taken seriously. The European Union needed to take part in the Council of Europe's anti-corruption activities, both as a subject of them and as a player in them, so that there could be an evaluation of the European institutions including the European Parliament. GRECO members that were also Member States of the European Union fully endorsed that position. Offshore companies were not subject to evaluation by GRECO. But company registrations had been looked at in the 2nd evaluation round, when recommendations for more stringent requirements had been made to the USA. The US states targeted by the GRECO recommendations had complied. Political determination was not enough on its own but it was an essential requisite. Social networks could be used for preventive campaigns aimed at the young. To date only Hong Kong's Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) had introduced "moral education resources" for primary schools. The subject of corruption and human trafficking was not part of GRECO's remit. Although the media played a part in bringing corruption to light, they were not immune to it themselves.

Mr Thelesklaf also felt frustrated by the fact that the various financial mechanisms available to prevent terrorist activity were not more successful. However, it ought not to be forgotten that the considerable progress achieved since 9/11 had led to a marked fall-off in the activities of Al-Qaeda. "Islamic State" was organised differently. Consequently the current framework needed to be modified rather than reinvented. Work was ongoing to yield a better understanding of the funding routes of "Islamic State", which was financed by small sums hard to identify worldwide. In addition there were new issues such as foreign combatants, who were not used by Al-Qaeda. Financial investigators had to abide by the law, which was not entirely the case with investigative journalists. The best procedure, however, would be to have investigations spearheaded by public authorities and assisted by investigative journalists, civil society and NGOs. An adequate framework for controlling fraudulent economic behaviour already existed at European level, but it still needed to be properly applied. As for the activities of "Islamic State", these were largely funded by human trafficking.

12. OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS

a. Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan (20 March 2016) Doc. 14061

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

The rapporteur reiterated the Committee's conclusion that the elections had been efficiently organised, with some progress noted, but that the country still had a long way to go. Electoral law remained restrictive, in particular concerning the high threshold of 7% required for political parties to win seats in parliament, the ban on electoral blocs, unequal representation of political parties in election commissions, and the system of allocation of seats after election day by decision of each party's governing body. Paragraph 34 of the report detailed a number of technical shortcomings. On election day, the citizens of Kazakhstan had made their choice in a calm and free atmosphere. There had been procedural errors and unintentional irregularities. The authorities had been invited to provide systematic training for members of polling stations, especially in rural areas. Electoral law and practice could be an important field for future co-operation between Kazakhstan and the Council of Europe.

Mr Garðarsson noted that the percentage of the vote obtained by the President's party, Nur Otan, was especially high at 82.20%, despite the participation of six other political parties. The atmosphere surrounding the elections had admittedly been calm, which was to be expected given the absence of any criticism of the President and his party, the lack of any real political debate and media coverage which favoured the President's Nur Otan party. Given the Committee's small size, its members had not been able to visit every region.

The rapporteur said that chapter 4 of the report had analysed the media environment and the breakdown of media coverage, and concerns about these aspects had been expressed in the statement released by the International Election Observation Mission.

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

b. Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Serbia (24 April 2016)

Doc. 14062

*Rapporteur of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Mr Volodymyr Ariev (Ukraine, EPP/CD)*

The rapporteur said that election day had been calm. A few isolated incidents had been reported, which had not affected the outcome. There had been a number of inadequacies in the election campaign: abuse by incumbents of the administrative advantages of office; pressure on voters and intimidation, particularly of public-sector employees; media coverage favourable to the ruling parties, despite an open media environment; and a lack of transparency in party and campaign funding. Private media coverage was a cause of particular concern. The delegation had been told of signatures being forged to support some candidate lists. The 2014 election observation report had previously pointed out that the process of signature verification was not transparent and that the rules on this needed to be tightened. Serbia thus needed to improve its electoral law framework as well as certain electoral practices. Lastly, early elections, if held regularly as was the case in Serbia, did not allow a country's parliament to pursue a stable work programme.

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

13. LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**Urgent need to prevent human rights violations during peaceful protests**

Doc. 14060

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:
Ms Ermira Mehmeti Devaja ("The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", SOC)*

Mr Destexhe, the Committee Chairman, presented the report in the rapporteur's absence. He said that it had originally been inspired by events on the Maidan in Ukraine and Gezi Park in Turkey when peaceful demonstrations had turned violent, resulting in deaths and injuries. The report was less relevant today than two years ago, thanks to measures against terrorism. Peaceful protest, whether authorised or not, had a vital role to play in democratic societies. The right to protest peacefully was in decline in some member states due to excessive police deployment or legislative restrictions. Abuses by law enforcement agencies, whose very job it was to enable peaceful assemblies to take place, were a threat to the rule of law. Breaches of human rights could happen both before a protest – if it was wrongfully banned or the organisers detained – and afterwards if protestors were arrested or prosecuted. There had been a number of incidents in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Greece, Russia, Spain, Turkey and the Republic of Moldova. The resolution called on member states to review existing legislation, regulate the use of tear gas and other "less lethal" weapons, and to adopt and implement a human rights-based approach to policing protests, in particular by organising human rights training for members of law-enforcement forces, effectively investigating all instances of ill-treatment committed by law-enforcement officials and punishing such officials adequately.

Mr Küçükcan said that the Gezi Park protests mentioned in this report had spread to other cities. The peaceful demonstrators – students – had been joined by violent persons who threw stones, vandalised property and were thus a threat to public order and people's lives. Law enforcement officers who had used excessive force had been prosecuted. This year talks had been held between the authorities and the unions to ensure that protests on Taksim Square could be as peaceful as possible.

Mr Ariev said that in addition to the use of law enforcement personnel to break up the Maidan protests, there had also been intimidation of demonstrators close to the main protest venue by groups of former or serving police officers dressed in plain clothes. At the time, Russian Government officials had consulted the Minister of the Interior on how to end the protests. The findings of the inquiry into violence by officials had already been laid before the courts.

Mr Kox thanked the rapporteur for the pertinent proposals set out in the draft resolution. The report had analysed the position in a number of countries without distinction as to size or geographical location: it looked at Russia, Turkey, France and Spain along with many others. The finding of the high-level International Advisory Panel mandated by the Council of Europe to investigate the Maidan and Odessa violence had been that the investigations were not conducted properly. The Government of Ukraine needed to pay particular attention to the recommendation in paragraph 7.9.

Ms Wurm asked for more information on the alleged clashes between protestors and Turkish law enforcement officials in Ankara on International Women's Day.

Ms Kavvadia said that the events in Athens mentioned in the report had occurred under the previous government. The present Syriza Government viewed it as a priority that the police should respect and protect human rights.

Mr Rouquet welcomed the text of the draft resolution. He suggested, however, that the part of the sentence in paragraph 6 which mentioned a decree declaring a state of emergency in France should be deleted because it contained inaccuracies. The oral amendment was adopted.

The resolution was **adopted** unanimously [Resolution 2116 (2016)].

14. CULTURE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND MEDIA
Promoting city-to-city cooperation in the field of culture

Doc. 13995
Amendments

Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:
The Earl of Dundee (United Kingdom, EC)

The rapporteur wished to link three considerations: the objective of city-to-city co-operation, its contribution to stability in Europe and interaction between local authorities and the public. The aim of co-operation was to improve things in the various cities. The starting point was cultural and educational exchanges and economic activities. City-to-city co-operation was a local dimension of integration which cemented stability in Europe. The third point, interaction between local authorities and cities, also prompted three remarks. The more aware local authorities became of the value of city-to-city co-operation, the more they had to disengage in order to allow cities to create synergies. Economic constraints were no obstacle to co-operation because there were many simple, inexpensive and creative ways in which cities could co-operate. Lastly, national democracy could be re-energised from grass-root level. Politicians today were often accused of no longer being in touch with the people. Successes once described as national were now frequently measured in terms of things achieved at local level.

Ms Maury-Pasquier proposed two unopposed amendments concerning the Europe Prize. Amendments 1 and 2 were adopted.

The resolution was **adopted** unanimously [Resolution 2117 (2016)].

15. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

16. NEXT MEETING

The Standing Committee **decided** to hold its next meeting in Nicosia on 25 November 2016.

The sitting **was closed** at 2 pm.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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

Mr Pedro AGRAMUNT Spain

Chairpersons of Political Groups / Président(e)s des groupes politiques

Mr Axel E. FISCHER	Group of the European People's Party / Groupe du Parti populaire européen
Mr Michele NICOLETTI	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 SEYIDOV ²	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

Sir Roger GALE	United Kingdom
M. René ROUQUET	France
Ms Valentina LESKAJ	Albania
Ms Ingjerd SCHOU	Norway
Mr Włodzimierz BERNACKI	Poland
Mr Talip KÜÇÜKCAN	Turkey
Mr Zsolt NÉMETH	Hungary
Ms Adele GAMBARO	Italy
Ms Ioanetta KAVVADIA	Greece
Mr Axel E. FISCHER	Germany
Ms Maria GUZENINA	Finland

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

Ms Valentina LESKAJ	Albania
Ms Gisela WURM	Austria
Mr Samad SEYIDOV	Azerbaijan
Mr Hendrik DAEMS	Belgium
Mr Senad SEPIĆ	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr Domagoj HAJDUKOVIĆ	Croatia
Ms Marianne MIKKO	Estonia
Ms Maria GUZENINA	Finland
M. René ROUQUET	France
Mr Axel E. FISCHER	Germany
Ms Ioanetta KAVVADIA	Greece
Mr Zsolt NÉMETH	Hungary
Mr Karl GARÐARSSON	Iceland
Mr Michele NICOLETTI	Italy
Ms Biruté VĖSAITĖ	Lithuania
Mme Anne BRASSEUR	Luxembourg
Mr Predrag SEKULIĆ	Montenegro
Mr Nico SCHRIJVER	Netherlands
Ms Ingjerd SCHOU	Norway
Mr Włodzimierz BERNACKI	Poland
M. Adão SILVA	Portugal
Ms Aleksandra DJUROVIĆ	Serbia
Ms Ksenija KORENJAK KRAMAR	Slovenia

² Vice-Chairperson / Vice-président

Mr Pedro AGRAMUNT	Spain
Mr Jonas GUNNARSSON	Sweden
Mr Alfred HEER	Switzerland
Mr Talip KÜÇÜKCAN	Turkey
Mr Volodymyr ARIEV	Ukraine
Sir Roger GALE	United Kingdom

**Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy /
Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie**
Mr Mogens JENSEN Denmark

**Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights /
Président de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme**
M. Alain DESTEXHE Belgique

**Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons /
Présidente de la Commission des migrations, des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées**
Ms Sahiba GAFAROVA Azerbaijan

**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**
Mr Volodymyr ARIEV Ukraine

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

**Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs /
Présidente de la Commission du règlement, des immunités et des affaires institutionnelles**
Mme Liliane MAURY PASQUIER Suisse

**Chairperson of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights /
Président de la Commission sur l'élection des juges à la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme**
Mr Boriss CILEVIČS Latvia

**Rapporteurs (not members of the Standing Committee) /
Rapporteur(e)s (non-membres de la Commission permanente)**
The Earl of Dundee United Kingdom

Invited personalities / Personnalités invitées

Mr Eiki NESTOR	Speaker of the Riigikogu / Président du Riigikogu
Ms Marina KALJURAND	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia and Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers / ministre des Affaires étrangères de l'Estonie et Présidente du Comité des Ministres
Mr Marin MRČELA	President of the Group of States against corruption (GRECO) / Président du Groupe d'Etats contre la corruption (GRECO)
Mr Daniel THELESKLAFF	Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) / Président du Comité d'experts sur l'évaluation des mesures de lutte contre le blanchiment des capitaux et le financement du terrorisme (MONEYVAL)

Delegation Secretaries / Secrétaires de délégations

M. Erick GARASA MINGORANCE	Andorre
Ms Sonja LANGENHAECK	Belgium
Ms Veronika KRUPOVÁ	Czech Republic
Ms Mette VESTERGAARD	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
M. Federico CASELLI	Italy
Mr Martins OLEKŠS	Latvia
Ms Dorthe BAKKE	Norway
Mme Hanna KUCHARSKA- LESZCZYNSKA	Pologne
Mr Vladimir FILIPOVIĆ	Serbia
Ms Alja ŠKIBIN	Slovenia
Mr Ludwid HÖGHAMMAR-MITKAS	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 Artemy KARPENKO	Deputy Head of the Private Office / Chef-adjoint du Cabinet
Mr Alfred SIXTO	Head of the Table Office / Chef du Service de la Séance
Ms Angela GARABAGIU	Secretary of the Bureau / Secrétaire du Bureau
Mme Kateryna GAYEVSKA	Secretary of the Standing Committee / Secrétaire de la Commission permanente
Ms Nathalie BARGELLINI	Principal Administrative Assistant, Communication Division / Assistante administrative principale 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

Ms Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI	Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe / Secrétaire Générale Adjointe du Conseil de l'Europe
Mr Markus ADELSBACH	Advisor, Private Office of the Secretary General / Conseiller, Cabinet du Secrétaire Général
M. Christophe POIREL	Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Ministers / Secrétaire Adjoint du Comité des Ministres
Ms Laura SANZ-LEVIA	Administrative Officer, GRECO / Administratrice, GRECO

Other participants / Autres participants

Ms Katrin KIVI	Permanent Representative of Estonia to the Council of Europe / Représentante Permanente de l'Estonie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe
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Ms Karmen LAUS

Director of the Division of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia / Directrice de la Division des organisations internationales du Ministère des affaires étrangères de l'Estonie

Ms Anna LÖFFLER

Assistant to Mr Németh / Assistante de M. Németh

APPENDIX II

Decisions on documents tabled for references to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Schennach and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 13978

Reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for report*

2. **Resolving the ongoing conflict in Turkey and finding a political solution to the Kurdish question**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kox and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 13980

No further action

3. **Promoting diversity and equality in politics**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Osamor and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 13981

Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

4. **The value of cultural heritage in a democratic society**
Motion for a resolution tabled by The Earl of Dundee and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 14026

Consultation of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *on possible follow-up*

5. **Good football governance**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Brasseur and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 14027

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

6. **Counter-Narratives to Terrorism**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Byrne and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 14032

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

7. **A potential threat to European countries imposed by the nuclear power plant in Belarus**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Vésaité and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 14033

Consultation of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *on possible follow-up*

8. **The "Panama Papers" – an opportunity to expose corruption and organised crime**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Omtzigt and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 14034

9. **The "Panama Papers" and the concern about fiscal, social justice and public trust in our democratic system**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr van de Ven and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 14045

10. **Panama Papers: what lessons for the state of democracy in Council of Europe member States?**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Van der Maelen and other members of the Assembly
Doc. 14047

Reference of the three motions to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion* with one new title “The concern about fiscal, social justice and public trust in our democratic system”

B. REQUESTS FOR MODIFICATION OF REFERENCES

- 1. Closing the protection gap of unaccompanied children in Europe**
Motion for a recommendation tabled by Ms Strik and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 13646](#)
Ref. 4099 of 26 January 2015

Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*

- 2. Jurisdictional immunity of international organisations and rights of their staff**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Le Borgn' and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 13905](#)
Ref. 4185 of 29 January 2016

Reference to the Committee on Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*

- 3. Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the “Cairo Declaration”?**
Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Omtzigt and other members of the Assembly
[Doc. 13965](#)
Ref. 4188 of 4 March 2016

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