



News from the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

N°2, 2016

PACE Session
18-22 April 2016

IN THIS ISSUE:

Exchange of views

Declarations

Rapporteurs

Questions

Speakers

ALDE
members

Highlights of the April part-session in Strasbourg

- **Liberal network:** the ALDE group exchanged views with Hans van Baalen, President of the ALDE Party. It was the first visit of the Party President to PACE since his election in November 2015. The two organisations decided to continue and reinforce cooperation.
- **#Free Savchenko:** ALDE adopted a declaration urging to free the Ukrainian military pilot and PACE member Nadiia Savchenko and other Ukrainian citizens taken hostage and illegally detained in Russia. During the session week ALDE raised the issue in the plenary, with the Council of Europe's officials and MPs.
- **Investigation into the murder of Boris Nemtsov:** ALDE once again called to find and bring to justice the perpetrators and those who ordered the killing of Boris Nemtsov, Russian opposition leader assassinated in Moscow on 27 February 2015. "A credible investigation is not only important to the members of Boris Nemtsov's family and colleagues, but to all Russian citizens who seek justice, democracy and security," believes Kerstin Lundgren together with 52 other MPs, representing 25 member states and the five political groups, who signed the [motion for a resolution](#) tabled on 28 January 2016.
- **High recognition:** Anne Brasseur, former liberal President of the Parliamentary Assembly, received the [Grand Decoration of Honour](#) in Gold with Sash from the hands of Heinz Fischer, outgoing President of Austria. Congratulating Anne Brasseur, Jordi Xuclà declared that "ALDE is immensely proud of this recognition of Anne Brasseur's approach to parliamentary work, a truly liberal approach based on the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law".

As always, we wish to thank ALDE members who took active part in plenary debates, defended our position in committees, presented reports and attended group meetings. We welcome all new members who joined the group since January and wish them excellent work. We were glad to welcome Laura Laussade (Political Advisor to ALDE Party). We are also thankful to our student assistants Hanna Hunter (IFLRY, UK), Sandra Ahtola (Finland, University of Strasbourg) and Anna Forn i Masvidal (Spain, University of Strasbourg). A very warm and special thanks goes to Mr Peter Kallenberger for his unfailing support and commitment.

ALDE endeavours to be the engine of the Assembly defending core European values
Visit our website: www.alde-pace.org

Exchange of views with Mr Hans van Baalen, President of the ALDE Party



Mr van Baalen, Mr Xuclà

At its meeting on 18 April 2016, the liberal group of the Parliamentary Assembly held an exchange of views with Hans van Baalen, President of the ALDE Party. The group discussed the most urgent challenges the European continent was facing, including the refugee crisis, the relations with the Russian Federation and the need for the country to comply with the international law, the recent referendum on EU-Ukraine association agreement held in the Netherlands, the danger of populist movements and European security concerns.

“Liberal partner organisations have a long list of topics where cooperation and information sharing could be reinforced,” declared Jordi Xuclà opening the exchange of views.

Hans van Baalen presented the activities of the ALDE Party: “During my presidency, I would like to draw particular attention to the support of liberal parties around the European continent. Local liberal parties may count on the ALDE Party’s institutional support and campaign assistance.”

Hans van Baalen proposed to step up cooperation between liberal Parliamentary bodies in Europe and, *inter alia*, establish regular contacts between liberal rapporteurs in the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament.

Hans van Baalen MEP served as member of PACE in 2003-2004 and was elected President of the ALDE Party on 21 November 2015. The [ALDE Party](#) is a coalition of European liberal parties and individuals. Currently it consists of 57 member parties and many individuals from 37 European countries. The next [ALDE Party Congress](#) will be held in Warsaw, Poland, on 1-3 December 2016.



Strasbourg, 18 April 2016

Declaration adopted by the ALDE group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

1. Having regard to the sentencing of Ms Nadiia Savchenko, Ukrainian MP and former military pilot, by a Russian court to 22 years in prison;
2. Considering that Ms Savchenko has been continuously kept in custody since June 2014;
3. Having regard to her illegal transfer from the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine to the territory of the Russian Federation in order to stand trial for having allegedly participated in killing of two Russian journalists on 17 June 2014;
4. Fearing the irreversible health damage from the multiple hunger strikes that the 34-year-old woman has undertaken in protest of her illegal detention and her sentence;
5. Taking into account that the Minsk agreements signed on 12 February 2015 foresee the exchange of all hostages and persons unlawfully detained in the context of the conflict in the east of Ukraine;
6. Noting that since January 2015 Ms Savchenko enjoys European parliamentary immunity as member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – immunity which has not been waived – and that the Russian Federation is bound to respect its obligations under international law, as a Party to the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe (of 2 September 1949) and its Additional Protocol (of 6 November 1952);
7. Taking note of the numerous calls by the international human rights and political bodies to release Ms Savchenko, including in Resolutions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 2034 (2015) and 2063 (2015), Resolution of the European Parliament on “The case of Nadiya Savchenko” (30 April 2015) and Resolution of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on “Abducted and illegally detained Ukrainian Citizens in the Russian Federation” (9 July 2015);
8. Having regard to other cases of illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation following the illegal annexation of Crimea and beginning of the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine;

ALDE-PACE calls on the authorities of the Russian Federation to:

- immediately release Ms Nadiia Savchenko or to transfer her to Ukraine;
- refrain from turning Ms Savchenko and other illegally detained Ukrainian citizens into hostages, from endangering their lives and from violating their fundamental rights.

ALDE-PACE also urges Council of Europe member states to take appropriate measures to secure Ms Savchenko’s release and save her life.



Mr Jordi XUCLÀ (Spain)

Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council, Rapporteur AS/POL (Doc. 14002), Tuesday 19 April 2016

"I am concluding two years of intense work with the Palestinian authorities, especially with our Palestinian parliamentary colleagues. Those two years made it possible for me to visit and know better the aspirations of a people who want to pursue their own State, which must be a democratic State where there is full respect for human rights and the standards of the Council of Europe."



Ms Nellija KLEINBERGA (Latvia)

The humanitarian concerns with regard to people captured during the war in Ukraine, Rapporteur AS/Mig (Doc. 14015, Doc. 14015 Add.), Thursday 21 April 2016

"I am presenting my report in Russian because I consider it essential for our Russian colleagues – who are, of course, not present, but are following our debates along with all the other Russians – to hear and understand that if we want peace in Europe we must put a stop to barbaric methods such as kidnapping people, seizing them and then finding them guilty on trumped-up, politically motivated charges."

[Back](#)

**Question to Mr Nils MUIŽNIEKS
Council of Europe Commissioner
for Human Rights**



Ms ZELIENKOVÁ (Czech Republic) – I would like first to thank you for your great work and the particular effort that you into Ukraine and the crisis that we

currently face. I want to ask about Nadia Savchenko. Have you taken, or will you take, any steps to help save her life?



Mr MUIŽNIEKS – During my last visit to Russia in September 2014, I raised not only the Savchenko case, but several others of Ukrainians held in detention in the Russian Federation. My view is that everyone who has been detained in the conflict in eastern Ukraine should be dealt with in the context of the Minsk negotiations. All those from Crimea who

were detained, and especially those, such as Ahtem Chygoz, who were arrested after the political changes for alleged transgressions before the changes, should be released. Should it be possible to continue my country work in Russia in the coming year, I intend to put those issues on my agenda. I have received some signals that give me hope that, perhaps after the elections, I might be able to go to Russia again, but it has not been possible in the last year and a half.

Question the Secretary General of the Council of Europe



Ms LUNDGREN (Sweden) – Our colleague Nadia Savchenko has been illegally transferred to Russia and illegally sentenced to 22 years in prison. Nadia has been on a dry hunger strike for 14 days. This issue is about the rule of law and our colleague

Nadia Savchenko's life. What have you, as Secretary General, done and what are you doing to get Nadia Savchenko released?



Mr JAGLAND – The Council of Europe and I have called for the release of Nadia Savchenko on humanitarian grounds. We continue to call for her release. It would be counter-productive of me to speak about what I have done in more concrete terms; in certain cases you cannot achieve anything if you speak publicly about things. We will continue to work for the release of Nadia Savchenko on humanitarian grounds.

*translation

Question to Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER,
President of the European Commission



Ms BRASSEUR
(Luxembourg, Spokesperson
for the Alliance of Liberals and
Democrats for Europe)* –
President, thank you very
much indeed for following up
the invitation I sent you two
years ago to address our
Assembly – my successor has

had far more luck in that than I did. Solidarity between countries is, as you have said, a cornerstone on which European construction is predicated. That solidarity, however, is crumbling. People are becoming more inward looking and nationalism and populism are on the rise. In some countries, even in the European Union, the rule of law is under threat, and that is a violation of our democratic principles. How can we reverse those dangerous trends, given that we increasingly need solidarity to be able to cope with the large number of challenges faced by our entire continent?

Question to Mr Davutoglu,
Prime Minister of Turkey



Ms OEHRI
(Liechtenstein)* –
Given the time, I
have a very short
question for the
prime minister. I
would like him to
share his view of

the criticism that women are the subject of increasing oppression in Turkey. A report from Amnesty International says that some women are being imprisoned or returned to their home countries where they run the risk of torture. That contrasts with a humanitarian stand in that regard in the past. What does he say about that Amnesty International report?

Mr JUNCKER* – Ms Brasseur, you can see



that I am rather embarrassed not to have responded immediately to the invitation you extended to me in 2015. The impression that you may have that I waited until you finished your term before

coming to the Chamber is wrong. Since your term of office has ended, I want to say how much I appreciated the way in which you presided over the Assembly.

To attain the goals you mentioned, both the Council of Europe and the European Union must stress, with renewed vigour, the importance of the rule of law. What brings us together is respect for the law, and all those who talk about freedom with regard to established democratic norms and all those who do not respect the Court's judgments are making a serious mistake.

Mr DAVUTOĞLU* – In my speech, I said that if there were a test



on humanity globally, Turkey would be the only country to pass it. Some might not appreciate that, some might not be aware of it, and some might not want to recognise it because they oppose Turkey for one reason or the other. Historically, and in the hearts of the Syrian people today, that is clear.

I referred to the Amnesty International report.

Not one single Syrian has been sent back to Syria against his or her will. Certainly no Syrian women or children have been sent back against their will. Some 152 000 Syrian babies have been born in Turkey. Are we going to deport women and children that have been born in Turkey? There can be no logic to such claims. Three million Syrians are being hosted in Turkey. Are we going to withdraw our hospitality for 100 000 or 200 000 people? No way! A Syrian group who were stopped at the Bulgarian border said they wanted to talk to me so I met them. They said: "Don't misunderstand us, prime minister. We are not protesting against Turkey; we are protesting against Europe and the world. Turkey has opened its heart to us more than Syria did." One man said: "My wife was pregnant and I took her to hospital. I did not have a penny in my pocket. I did not know what would happen after she gave birth. We had our baby and I asked what I should pay, and was told, 'You have paid us with your presence. You will pay us nothing more.'" He said he did not have any money to pay for a taxi, but the hospital paid for it.

By the way, my wife is a gynaecologist. If one pregnant woman or any other woman in need is being deprived of anything in Turkey, just tell me. We will make her the queen of our hearts and give her the best we can offer. I am speaking not only as the Prime Minister of Turkey but as one of 70 million Turks who have been hosting 3 million Syrians when I say that no person in need is ever deprived of any kind of benefits. We will not let anyone touch those Syrians, let alone touch a Syrian woman. If there are any allegations, bring them to us and we will investigate them, but there is absolutely no rational basis and no truth to such claims. We have open door and open heart policies towards the Syrians

*translation

**Question to Mr Heinz FISCHER,
President of Austria**

Mr FISCHER (Liechtenstein)* – I would like to thank you for your very able address. Austria has decided to take a strict view on border controls; I

can comprehend that. However, its moves are controversial within Austria, particularly when it comes to tightening up controls on the Brenner pass, which you mentioned. You also talked about the comprehensive failure of European asylum policy. What does Europe now need to do in order to ensure that we do not jeopardise the notion of Europe as being united and showing solidarity?

**Question to Mr Daniel MITOV,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
Bulgaria, Chairperson of the
Committee of Ministers**

Ms MATEU (Andorra, Spokesperson for the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe)* – When

you began your chairmanship, you said that you wanted to promote the values and standards of unity and co-operation in the field of human rights, and the respect of rights, law and democracy. However, some frozen conflicts have unfrozen and have caused explosions that are difficult with some of our borders. Will you say something about concrete measures to defuse a number of frozen conflicts in our territories?



Mr FISCHER* – I gather that President Juncker was here yesterday. It would have been a good idea to ask him that question, because that, of course, is his job. I am not sure exactly what his response is to that, but my view is that the current Schengen system is predicated on external borders being effectively patrolled. If we cannot secure our external borders, there will

inevitably be problems, which is why we must address that first and foremost.

Obviously, I am struck by what Germany has done in recent years. I know why Austria took the action it did. If we looked at trying to stem the migratory flows, if we had more fairness in the distribution of refugees within Europe and if, moreover, it were possible for the whole issue of refugees not to fuel populism and to be exploited for party political purposes, we would already have achieved a great deal. We have to show humanity in dealing with these human beings. The climate in 2015 was one of a lack of preparedness, but those days are behind us now. We are now prepared for what is to come, even though there will be more influxes of migrants.



Mr MITOV – That is quite a vast topic, and I am afraid that we will not have the time to exhaust it in its full length and dimension. The mandate of the Council of Europe is not to resolve conflicts, whether they are frozen or not. That is a matter for other international organisations. However, the Council of Europe has its role when it comes to conflicts

that we might characterise as frozen and to conflicts in general. That being so, we must ensure that all people living in Europe can benefit from the protection granted by the Council of Europe's instruments, particularly the European Convention on Human Rights.

We know well that whatever the conflict is, we need somehow to think outside the box. The situation of frozen conflicts and other conflicts is quite unusual. Our main purpose is to ensure access to the existing instruments of the Council of Europe for the territories that we can qualify as frozen conflicts. We can use those instruments to assess the situation on the ground and to be sure that the citizens there benefit from the standards on which the Council of Europe stands. The topic will be addressed at the ministerial session in Sofia next month. I urge all my colleagues to take part in the discussion because we need to think about the instruments that the Council of Europe has and the ones that we might eventually invent to ensure access to those territories, and to be sure that we know who is responsible for what and that the citizens in those territories have guaranteed human rights.

This might sound revolutionary to you but I believe that human rights stand above any other claims. Whatever the claim – territorial or whatever it may be – human rights come first and they must be safeguarded. You are right to ask about instruments and about certain actions. I hope that we can get into those topics in depth in the ministerial meeting in Sofia, because we need solutions to a lot of those open wounds in the heart of Europe

*translation

Question to Mr José Manuel GARCÍA-MARGALLO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Spain



Mr XUCLÀ (Spain)* – In Castilian we say, “Dime de que presumes y te diré de que careces” – “Tell me what you have and I’ll tell

you what you lack.” I will not enter into the debate that you suggested about the strength of democracy.

Today is Wednesday’s control session of the parliament. I asked you a question six months ago, and I today I will ask you a new question in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In our Assembly, we have debates on frozen conflicts, such as Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia and Southern Ossetia. What are your proposals for frozen conflicts?



Mr GARCÍA-MARGALLO* – Mr Xuclá, you were invited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a working lunch so that I could tell you the government’s criteria for this sector, taking into consideration that our legislation prevents a government from being controlled, but I could not interrupt a dialogue with you. I turned up, and my Secretary of State was also there, to explain the agreement between the

European Union and Turkey. It is not possible in this context to talk about all the frozen conflicts, but I can say one thing that could apply to them all. In all these conflicts, it is important to seek the principle of territorial integrity – in Mali, in Syria, in Iraq and Ukraine, and also in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Secondly, the international community should be more active in all those conflicts.

According to the United Nations, self-determination applies in only three cases: colonial cases; when territories are occupied militarily; and when fundamental rights are denied to the citizen. Those are the three principles of self-determination. Otherwise the territorial principle dominates, as stated in the San Francisco charter, and Articles 4 and 49 of the treaty of the European Union.

Mr Xuclá, respect for the law and for the established channels is essential. In all written constitutions of the world with two exceptions – Ethiopia and Canada – the principle of territorial integrity dominates. That can be changed only by those constitutions. In Spain, that can happen only by changing the constitution by procedures established under the constitution.

Monday 18 April 2016

Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee



Ms SOTNYK (Ukraine) The ALDE group has decided to devote this speech to Nadia Savchenko. Nadia, our colleague, has been illegally detained by the Russian Federation for two years now. She was sentenced to 22 years in prison. She is dying, because 12 days ago she declared a dry hunger strike, without a drop of water or any food. Doctors have declared that she will not survive until our debate on Thursday. That is why our group decided to demand her urgent release and to ask all the member States to react and to do something today, not tomorrow, because she could die before Thursday. [...] That is why I ask all of you to stand up and show your solidarity with our colleague, Nadia, and show all the world that we want her to be free. Free Nadia Savchenko! [Read more](#)

Current affairs debate: The case of the “Panama Papers



Mr PASQUIER (Monaco) – The Panama papers is obviously an ongoing story: the story of one law firm in one country that clearly represents the tip of the iceberg. [...] The first question the ALDE group asked itself is how this information came out. Most probably, it came out through theft and leaks. Are the people responsible truly independent, or do they have their own agenda? We do not know. Does this mean we need to shoot the messenger? member States to react and to do something today, not tomorrow, because she could die before Thursday. That is why I ask all of you to stand up and show your solidarity with our colleague, Nadia, and show all the world that we want her to be free. Free Nadia Savchenko! [Read more](#)

Group
Speakers

Debates

Results

*translation

Free debate



Ms LUNDGREN (*Sweden*) – I will speak about the motion tabled in this Assembly on 28 January and signed by 53 of us about the murder of Boris Nemtsov. More than a year has passed since the former Vice-Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and respected and charismatic leader of the opposition against President Putin was murdered just outside the Kremlin the night before he would have led the protest march against the war in Ukraine. He was murdered when finalising an investigative report on the involvement of the Russian military in the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Now, more than a year after the murder, it is time for us to look into what is happening with the investigation into Boris Nemtsov's assassination. It is time for the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly to shed light on the background of the murder. There is

space for the international community to monitor the course and results of the ongoing investigation to help to ensure that all aspects of the case are properly considered by the competent authorities. The background of the crime must be investigated to ensure not only that the man who pulled the trigger is punished, but that those who ordered or organised the murder are not protected. That is important not only to members of Boris Nemtsov's family, relatives and colleagues, but to Russian citizens who seek justice, democracy and security. [...] Fifty three of us have signed the motion. Let us go for a resolution on the murder of Boris Nemtsov! [Read more](#)

Joint debate: Preventing the radicalisation of children by fighting the root causes (Doc. 14010, Doc. 14010 Add.); **Towards a framework of competences for democratic citizenship** (Doc. 13992)



Ms GAMBARO (*Italy*)* –I had the opportunity last week in Brussels to talk about them at the conference of the Council of Europe with education ministers – we were talking about safeguarding democracy through education. The resolutions lead us to think about dangerous and worrying phenomena, and we must take them on honestly.[...]We need to alert member States of the Council of Europe to the need to fill the void through targeted programmes of cultural prevention and deradicalisation of young people. Teenagers from sink estates from poor backgrounds need to be taught that the hatred of people who are different from them is not a solution to their social and economic problems. We need a united vision of a solution. We need to address the problem by promoting culture and a solid education. Getting across those values will prevent terrorism, and the

deradicalisation plan will allow us to resist the influence of terrorism. [Read more, voting results 1, 2](#)

Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council (Doc. 14002)



Ms LUNDGREN (*Sweden*) –We fully agree with the conclusions in the report. [...] The Palestinian National Council became our second Partner for Democracy in October 2011. This is the second evaluation of the partnership. At the time we pointed ahead to where we wanted to move. We can see those points and follow the actions that have been taken in the report. The abolition of the death penalty is crucial for us. It is good to see that the Palestinian authority has not done anything to violate that, but we must condemn what has happened in Gaza, which, as we all know, has been used. The question of reform of the PNC is about not only a question of power between Fatah and Hamas but a greater power struggle in society. We hope to see more on that. [Read more, voting results](#)

Wednesday 20 April 2016

Renewed commitment in the fight against antisemitism in Europe (Doc. 14008)



Mr DESTEXHE (*Belgium*)* – ALDE very much welcomes this specific focus on antisemitism, which can take different forms. There are two main sources of antisemitism in Europe right now, depending on geography. First, there are the traditional forms of antisemitism, which, lamentably, are well known and are espoused by right-wing groups. However, a new form of antisemitism is now coming from just a small part of the Muslim community. A study carried out in Belgium in 2013 showed that 51% of young Muslims polled agreed with a statement that Jews foment war and accuse others of being responsible, whereas only 7% of the general population felt that to be true. Some 55% of young Muslims felt that Jews control everything and similar percentages felt that Jews had too much power in Belgium. Those manifestations of antisemitism must not

be neglected or overlooked. [Read more, voting results](#)

Joint debate:

A stronger European response to the Syrian refugee crisis (Doc. 14014);

Human rights of refugees and migrants - the situation in the Western Balkans (Doc. 14013); Debate under urgent procedure: The situation of refugees and migrants under the

EU-Turkey Agreement of 18 March 2016 (Doc. 14028)



Ms FIALA (*Switzerland*)* – Anyone who has seen the tragedy of the refugees at first hand, as I have, in the borders of Syria, and in the accommodation for unaccompanied children, young people and women, and anyone who has seen the way in which refugees are held in the holding centres on the Greek islands, will lose their innocence and know that any answers to this misery are not simply black and white. [...] At the moment, the European Union does not have a plan B. That is the real problem. We are living in a Europe without any consensus about what to do about the refugees. There is no burden sharing that is worthy of that name. People are creating an atmosphere of fear among our population. I call on members to criticise Turkey for what is going on there, but to admit and admire what it has done for refugees. [...] I thank all those who, in their countries, are saying that

contributions must be made to solve the refugee problem and I invite members to support the report. [Read more, voting results 1, 2, 3](#)

Intellectual property rights in the digital era (Doc. 14009)



Mr SCHNABEL (*Netherlands*) – Supporting the report does not mean that we believe that the solution to the problems is within reach. The report shows how difficult it is to develop a legislative framework that will balance the diverging interest of the creative individual, the user who is hardly prepared to pay royalties for information on the Internet, and the global companies, which, as virtually monopolists, decide what information will be made available to all other parties and on what conditions. More international co-operation is necessary in legislating and monitoring, not only between the countries of the EU – and, better still, the Council of Europe – but between multilateral institutions in Europe and the United States, which is the home of the current monopolists, and China, the main future competitor, which does not have an impressive

record of respect for intellectual property rights. We hope that the recommendations can be made more pertinent to that issue. [Read more, voting results](#)

Assessing the impact of measures to improve women's political representation (Doc. 14011)



Ms RODRÍGUEZ HERNÁNDEZ (*Spain*)* – Today, we are talking about equality, but there is still a lot to be done in political life to achieve it. [...] The report says that quotas are essential tools. I agree that quotas can help us to enter political life, but they will not solve the ultimate problem, which is the need to overcome the deterrents in social life and to tackle them as a priority. Quotas are important in these developments, but if we talk about equality, we really need to talk about gender-neutral policies that allow women to gain access to political life according to their abilities and not their gender. We need maternity and paternity leave. We need to consider the timetabling of work in parliament. We also need to consider the problem of falling birth rates. [Read more, voting results](#)

The humanitarian concerns with regard to people captured during the war in Ukraine (Doc. 14015, Doc. 14015 Add.)



Mr CHIKOVANI (*Georgia*) –Yes, war brings a lot of tragedies with it. It destroys buildings, but it also destroys the lives and minds of the Europeans who live in Ukraine. We in the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe appreciate Ms Kleinberga 's work on the report and applaud her for it, but first and foremost we call on both sides to ensure that all the provisions of the Minsk Agreement are adhered to and finally implemented.I must mention the addendum to the report, which refers to the case of our colleague Nadia Savchenko. The irony is that we in the Migration Committee were discussing her case while she was a member of that committee and of the Assembly. [...] Of course we all want to ensure that what has happened is clearly understood and that the matter is investigated in detail. We therefore call on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that they swiftly ratify the Rome

Statute in order to conduct that investigation. [Read more, voting results](#)

Debate under urgent procedure: After the Brussels attacks, urgent need to address security failures and step up counterterrorism co-operation (Doc. 14031)



Mr DAEMS (*Belgium*) –I wish to stress four points. The first is the fact that we say that our societies must be ready to pay a much higher price for security, but with the highest possible respect for individual freedom, privacy and our democratic values. Why is that? It is because the end goal of the terrorists is not just to kill people: it is to kill those values. If we allow ourselves to cut down on those democratic values – human rights and the rule of law – we will have lost the real war. That is why we are satisfied that that principle has been proposed by the Committee. [...] Secondly, we are happy that the resolution clearly states that we call “for a common European intelligence unit” for the purposes of counter-terrorism. It is important that the information gathered by secret services is shared on a timely and efficient basis, enabling any authority to take necessary action. [Read more, voting results](#)

The handling of international public health emergencies (Doc. 14012)



Ms PALLARÉS (*Andorra*) – We should review relations between the WHO and all other specialised agencies such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and international non-governmental organisations. I stress that the Committee of Ministers must take quick action on the matter. Personally, I feel that the report is missing a direct reference to the impact of climate change on the outbreak of some of these diseases. [...] I emphasise the necessity of fulfilling the recommendations in paragraph 4 of the resolution to make “scientific knowledge and information available on time to all”, to put in place a financial structure capable of providing the necessary resources and to develop a partnership between the private and public sectors to improve information management systems, logistics and medical supplies. [Read more, voting results](#)

Forced migration: a new challenge (Doc. 13983)



Ms ZOTEA (*Republic of Moldova*)* –The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that there may be 150 million refugees because people are escaping conflict, or because of nuclear, chemical or natural catastrophes. The International Organization for Migration says that there may well be forced migration because of climate change. The flow of migrants might increase to 150 million, or even 200 million, by the year 2050 because of climate change. It is essential to take emergency measures and find a relevant solution to end the alarming rise in the need for migration. We need to introduce the measures suggested by the UNHCR and update the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees to provide protection for those who are fleeing natural catastrophes as well as chemical or nuclear disasters. [Read more, voting results](#)

The case against a Council of Europe legal instrument on involuntary measures in psychiatry (Doc. 14007)



Ms PALLARÉS (*Andorra*) – On behalf of my group, I would like to thank the rapporteur for her strong plea against a Council of Europe legal instrument on involuntary measures in psychiatry. Representing political parties with a long-term tradition of safeguarding the rights of the individual and promoting humanitarian and humanist values in society, I cannot but feel sympathy towards the intentions in Ms Magradze's memorandum. I share her grave concerns about the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorders and I fully support her recommendation to promote and develop alternatives to involuntary measures in psychiatry. However, ALDE does not have a shared position on this sensitive issue and I would like to express our differing point of view. [Read more, voting results](#)