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DE BELGIQUE

7 septembre 2022

Réunion des présidentes d'assemblées
de l'Union européenne

Visioconférence du 25 mai 2022

RAPPORT

FAIT PAR
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Vergadering van de assembleevoorzitters
van de Europese Unie

Videovergadering van 25 mei 2022

VERSLAG

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MEVROUW **Eliane TILLIEUX**

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N-VA	: Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie
Ecolo-Groen	: Ecologistes Confédérés pour l'organisation de luttes originales – Groen
PS	: Parti Socialiste
VB	: Vlaams Belang
MR	: Mouvement Réformateur
cd&v	: Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams
PVDA-PTB	: Partij van de Arbeid van België – Parti du Travail de Belgique
Open Vld	: Open Vlaamse liberalen en democraten
Vooruit	: Vooruit
Les Engagés	: Les Engagés
DéFI	: Démocrate Fédéraliste Indépendant
INDEP-ONAFH	: Indépendant – Onafhankelijk

Abréviations dans la numérotation des publications:		Afkorting bij de nummering van de publicaties:	
DOC 55 0000/000	Document de la 55 ^e législature, suivi du numéro de base et numéro de suivi	DOC 55 0000/000	Parlementair document van de 55 ^e zittingsperiode + basisnummer en volgnummer
QRVA	Questions et Réponses écrites	QRVA	Schriftelijke Vragen en Antwoorden
CRIV	Version provisoire du Compte Rendu Intégral	CRIV	Voorlopige versie van het Integraal Verslag
CRABV	Compte Rendu Analytique	CRABV	Beknopt Verslag
CRIV	Compte Rendu Intégral, avec, à gauche, le compte rendu intégral et, à droite, le compte rendu analytique traduit des interventions (avec les annexes)	CRIV	Integraal Verslag, met links het definitieve integraal verslag en rechts het vertaalde beknopt verslag van de toespraken (met de bijlagen)
PLEN	Séance plénière	PLEN	Plenum
COM	Réunion de commission	COM	Commissievergadering
MOT	Motions déposées en conclusion d'interpellations (papier beige)	MOT	Moties tot besluit van interpellaties (beigegekleurig papier)

I. — INTRODUCTION

Le 25 mai 2022, la présidente du Sejm de la République de Pologne, Mme Elzbieta Witek, a organisé une visioconférence avec les présidentes d'assemblées des États membres de l'Union européenne (UE) et de l'Ukraine.

Ont assisté à cette vidéoconférence, outre Mme Witek, la présidente du Bundesrat autrichien, Mme Christine Schwarz-Fuchs; la présidente du Parlement chypriote, Mme Annita Demetriou; la présidente du Congreso de los Diputados espagnol, Mme Meritxell Batet Lamaña; la présidente du Seimas de la Lituanie, Mme Viktorija Cmilyte-Nielsen, et la vice-présidente de la Chambre des députés de la République tchèque, Mme Olga Richeterova. La vice-présidente de la Verkhovna Rada d'Ukraine, Mme Olena Kondratiuk, a également participé à la réunion. La Chambre des représentants de Belgique était représentée au niveau administratif.

L'objectif de la réunion était d'échanger des propositions de mesures spécifiques d'aide aux réfugiés ukrainiens, qui pourraient être entreprises conjointement et individuellement dans les pays des intervenantes.

Mme Witek a exprimé l'espoir que les réunions des présidentes d'assemblées constituent une plate-forme pour la mise en œuvre d'initiatives communes, dans le cadre desquelles les présidentes pourraient discuter des questions les plus importantes de la politique internationale. Mme Witek a expliqué le contexte de la réunion tout en soulignant l'importance de la coopération et de la solidarité, qui constituent la meilleure réponse à toutes les crises, y compris la crise actuelle des réfugiés ukrainiens en Europe.

II. — CONCLUSIONS

Parmi les initiatives prioritaires, la présidente du Sejm, Mme Witek, mentionne un voyage commun en Ukraine et l'organisation d'une conférence sur l'assistance psychologique aux réfugiés, notamment aux femmes et aux enfants. Dans ce contexte, elle appelle les présidentes d'assemblées à désigner des experts pour participer à l'événement.

La vice-présidente de la Verkhovna Rada, Mme Kondratiuk, appelle les présidentes d'assemblées à

I. — INLEIDING

Op 25 mei 2022 werd door de voorzitter van de Sejm van de Republiek Polen, mevrouw Elzbieta Witek, een videoconferentie georganiseerd met de vrouwelijke voorzitters van de parlementaire assemblees van de lidstaten van de Europese Unie (EU) en Oekraïne.

Naast mevrouw Witek werd deze videoconferentie bijgewoond door de voorzitter van de Oostenrijkse Bundesrat, mevrouw Christine Schwarz-Fuchs; de voorzitter van het Cypriotische parlement, mevrouw Annita Demetriou; de voorzitter van het Spaanse Congreso de los Diputados, mevrouw Meritxell Batet Lamaña; de voorzitter van de Seimas van Litouwen, mevrouw Viktorija Cmilyte-Nielsen, en de vicevoorzitter van de Kamer van Afgevaardigden van de Tsjechische Republiek, mevrouw Olga Richeterova. De bijeenkomst werd ook bijgewoond door de vicevoorzitter van de Verkhovna Rada van Oekraïne, mevrouw Olena Kondratiuk. De Belgische Kamer was op ambtelijk niveau vertegenwoordigd.

De bijeenkomst had tot doel voorstellen uit te wisselen voor specifieke hulpmaatregelen ten behoeve van Oekraïense vluchtelingen, die gezamenlijk en individueel in de landen van de sprekers zouden kunnen worden ondernomen.

Mevrouw Witek sprak de hoop uit dat de bijeenkomsten van de assembleevoorzitters een platform zouden vormen voor de uitvoering van gezamenlijke initiatieven, in het kader waarvan de voorzitters de belangrijkste kwesties van de internationale politiek kunnen bespreken. Mevrouw Witek lichtte de achtergrond van de vergadering toe en benadrukte tegelijkertijd het belang van samenwerking en solidariteit, die het beste antwoord vormen op alle crises, dus ook van de huidige Oekraïense vluchtelingencrisis in Europa.

II. — CONCLUSIES

Als een van de prioritaire initiatieven noemt de voorzitter van de Sejm, mevrouw Witek, een gezamenlijke reis naar Oekraïne en de organisatie van een conferentie over psychologische bijstand aan vluchtelingen, in de eerste plaats de vrouwen en kinderen. In dit verband wenst zij een beroep te doen op de assembleevoorzitters om deskundigen aan te wijzen die aan het evenement zouden kunnen deelnemen.

De vicevoorzitter van de Verkhovna Rada, mevrouw Kondratiuk, verzoekt de assembleevoorzitters

envoyer en Ukraine des experts qui pourront documenter les crimes de guerre commis par la Russie.

Mme Kondratiuk attire également l'attention sur la nécessité d'une réunion distincte entièrement consacrée aux perspectives d'adhésion de l'Ukraine à l'Union européenne.

Les présidentes d'assemblées ne s'opposent pas à l'acquisition par l'Ukraine du statut de pays candidat à l'adhésion à l'UE. Mme Witek propose qu'une position commune soit adoptée par les présidentes sur cette question.

L'initiative d'organiser des camps et des cours de vacances pour les enfants ukrainiens et leurs accompagnateurs est largement acceptée par les présidentes.

La présidente du Bundesrat autrichien présente le concept de coopération des collectivités locales en Autriche et en Ukraine sur la base de partenariats. Elle note que de telles communautés avaient déjà été établies dans les deux pays.

III. — ANNEXE

La note d'information envoyée par le département des Affaires internationales de la Chancellerie du *Sejm* polonais à la Chambre des représentants de Belgique le 13 juin 2022.

La présidente-rapporteure,

Eliane TILLIEUX

om deskundigen naar Oekraïne af te vaardigen die de door Rusland gepleegde oorlogsmisdaden kunnen documenteren.

Mevrouw Kondratiuk wijst ook op de noodzaak van een aparte bijeenkomst die geheel gewijd zou zijn aan de vooruitzichten van de toetreding van Oekraïne tot de Europese Unie.

De assembleevoorzitsters spreken zich niet uit tegen het verkrijgen door Oekraïne van de status van kandidaat-lidstaat van de EU. Mevrouw Witek stelt voor dat de assembleevoorzitsters over deze kwestie een gemeenschappelijk standpunt innemen.

Het initiatief om vakantiecampen en -cursussen voor Oekraïense kinderen en hun begeleiders te organiseren wordt door de voorzitters breed aanvaard.

De voorzitter van de Oostenrijkse Bundesrat presenteert het concept van samenwerking van lokale gemeenschappen in Oostenrijk en Oekraïne op basis van partnerschappen. Zij merkt op dat in beide landen reeds dergelijke gemeenschappen zijn opgericht.

III. — BIJLAGE

De informatienota die door de dienst Internationale Aangelegenheden van de Kanselarij van de Poolse *Sejm* op 13 juni 2022 aan de Belgische Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers werd bezorgd.

De voorzitter-rapportrice,

Eliane TILLIEUX



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUREAU
OF THE CHANCELLERY OF THE SEJM

Warsaw, 25 May 2022

**Information memo
from the videoconference of the Women Speakers
of the national parliaments of the EU Member States**

On 25 May 2022 a videoconference of the Women Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU Member States and Ukraine took place. Poland was represented by Speaker of the Sejm Elżbieta Witek. The event was attended by Speaker of the Austrian Federal Council Ms Christine Schwarz-Fuchs; Speaker of the House of Representatives of Cyprus Ms Annita Demetriou; Speaker of the Congress of Deputies Ms Meritxell Batet Lamaña; Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania Ms Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, and Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Ms Olga Richeterova. The event was also attended by Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Ms Olena Kondratiuk.

The principal aim of the meeting was to share the proposals of specific aid measures for the benefit of Ukrainian refugees that could be undertaken jointly and individually in the Speakers' countries. Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland Ms Elżbieta Witek expressed her hope that the meetings of the Women Speakers could constitute a platform for the implementation of joint initiatives, under which the Women Speakers would be able to discuss the most important issues of international politics. Ms Witek presented the background to the conference, emphasizing at the same time the essence of cooperation and solidarity, which are the best response to all crises, including the current refugee crisis.

Conclusions:

- As one of the priority initiatives, Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland Elżbieta Witek indicated a joint trip to Ukraine and the organization of a conference on psychological assistance to refugees. In this context, she appealed to the Women Speakers to nominate experts who could take part in the event.
- Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Olena Kondratiuk asked the Women Speakers to delegate experts to Ukraine who could document the war crimes committed by Russians.
- Ms Kondratiuk pointed to the need for a separate meeting dedicated entirely to the prospects of Ukraine's accession to the European Union.
- The Women Speakers agreed that Ukraine should be granted the status of a candidate country to the EU. Ms Witek proposed adopting a common position of the Women Speakers on this matter.
- The initiative of organizing holiday camps for Ukrainian children was openly accepted by the Women Speakers, and the Lithuanian and Cypriot Speakers expressed their firm support for this idea.
- Speaker of the Austrian Federal Council Christine Schwarz-Fuchs presented the concept of cooperation of local communities in Austria and Ukraine based on partnerships. She noted that such communities had already been found in both countries.

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Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland Ms Elżbieta Witek:

- Ms Witek proposed to organize a conference in Warsaw attended by specialists in psychiatry and treatment of war trauma. The aim of the psychological conference would be to gather knowledge and draw conclusions which could be used to prepare a special handbook for all those working with refugees - local and central government, as well as volunteers in all the countries involved. The handbook would be prepared in Polish, Ukrainian, and English and would include advice on how to deal with people traumatised by war, how to recognise the symptoms of their psychological problems, and which institutions such persons should be referred to obtain help.
- Ms Witek encouraged the Women Speaker to identify specialists in women's and children's psychology available in their countries so that a broad panel discussion could be held and valuable material gathered for the publication.
- Based on the example of Great Britain, Ms Witek suggested that the Speakers prepare information leaflets containing the offer of their countries to Ukrainian refugees, including opportunities to find work, and to participate in cultural and social life. Such a leaflet would be handed over to the Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration. The Ministry could transfer the information to the interested addressees in a reliable and verified way.
- Ms Witek referred to the example of Austria where the treatment of sick Ukrainian children was prevented by a language barrier. In this context, she suggested providing refugees with mobile translation applications which could be installed in their smartphones. She also stressed the importance of organizing free on-line host country language courses, e.g. German and English.
- Ms Witek also presented an offer of various types of trips abroad addressed to Ukrainian refugees. Children could go on holiday camps in EU countries, whereas adults could participate in training courses offered by particular states. As she pointed out, the Erasmus + programme could be a valuable tool here. Ms Witek also assured that she would take appropriate measures to organize 2-3 internships for Ukrainian citizens in the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and encouraged other Women Speakers to undertake a similar initiative in their parliaments.
- Ms Witek proposed organizing a meeting in Brussels at the end of June this year in order to ensure continuity and periodicity of meetings. As she emphasized, the meeting would be another opportunity for Women Speakers to discuss the issues of assistance to Ukrainian refugees, this time in the European Parliament.
- Ms Witek drew attention to the need of an accelerated path of Ukraine towards the European Union and appealed to other parliaments for their support in this matter, i.a. by adopting a common position. She stressed that the ongoing war is the price of the Ukrainian state for expressing its readiness to join the EU.

Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Ms Olena Kondratiuk:

- Ms Kondratiuk thanked the Women Speakers for the support that their countries had been providing for Ukraine. She confirmed that in the near future she would travel to Spain, the Czech Republic, to Cyprus and Austria in order to seek support for Ukraine on its path to EU membership. She indicated that at the meeting of the European Council on 25 June Ukraine would like to obtain the status of candidate country. In this context, she referred to Ms Witek's proposal indicating that a separate meeting dedicated entirely to the prospects of Ukraine's accession to the European Union and a unified position of the participating parliaments would be of great support.

- Ms Kondratiuk drew attention to the change in the format of the war and pleaded for the provision of offensive weapons to Ukraine.
- As for aid initiatives for Ukraine, Ms Kondratiuk asked the Women Speakers to help in educating Ukrainian children and organizing holidays for them. She noted that currently Ukraine had no access to the seaside. Holidays for Ukrainian children abroad would be a unique experience for them and would give them a moment of forgetfulness. She also suggested setting up educational centres at national parliaments that would provide opportunities for integration.
- Ms Kondratiuk asked for psychological support and - referring to Ms Witek's proposal - stressed the need to prepare information materials for Ukrainian women, which would present opportunities for work, education, or psychological assistance.
- Ms Kondratiuk appealed for help to rebuild Ukraine - infrastructure, schools, hospitals - after the war. She pointed out that the estimated cost of rebuilding the country would amount to about \$600 billion, therefore strong external support is needed.
- Ms Kondratiuk also asked for delegating experts to Ukraine who could document the war crimes of Russians, as well as for the help of lawyers who would fight for the rights of the victims.

Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania Ms Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen:

- Ms Čmilytė-Nielsen stressed the need for further assistance to Ukraine because only continuing aid actions can prevent a humanitarian crisis. She found it worrying that there were the voices forcing Ukraine to give up Crimea and Donbass in exchange for ending the war. According to her, such a situation would constitute consent to Russia's impunity.
- Ms Čmilytė-Nielsen reported that she had held several meetings on support for victims of sexual violence. She admitted that Lithuania did not have a system good enough to provide effective assistance, but such a system was being created.
- Ms Čmilytė-Nielsen supported the idea of holiday camps for Ukrainian children, expressed strong support for the recognition of Ukraine as an EU candidate country, and stressed the need to put pressure on other EU countries and on decision-makers in Brussels on this matter.

Speaker of the Austrian Federal Council Ms Christine Schwarz-Fuchs:

- Ms Schwarz-Fuchs reported that following the trip to Poland on 20 April, she had a long conversation with the Ukrainian Ambassador to Vienna on the ways how to help Ukraine. She indicated that Austria was ready to engage in rebuilding Ukrainian infrastructure by donating construction materials and by support from Austrian companies operating in the construction industry. She informed that talks with the Ukrainian authorities had already begun. The problem is that the war is still ongoing and companies are afraid to send their workers to start reconstruction.
- Ms Schwarz-Fuchs informed that she held a meeting with the Minister of Interior, to whom she presented photo material from its visit to the Polish-Ukrainian border and humanitarian aid centres. She indicated the need to organize similar support for Ukrainian refugees staying in Austria. In this context, she also had a conversation with the Austrian Ambassador to Poland.

- Ms Schwarz-Fuchs informed that she had held discussions with the Austrian Minister of Education regarding the integration of Ukrainian children in Austria. She reported that special classes had been established in schools where Ukrainian children were taught both according to the Austrian and Ukrainian core curriculum, so that upon their return to their homeland they could continue their education without making up the curriculum differences.

- Ms Schwarz-Fuchs reported that she had presented the conclusions of her visit to Poland at a UN meeting in New York, where she had held discussions with the UNICEF representatives on the refugee situation. As she pointed out, the UN was aware of the magnitude of the aid needed by Ukraine, and on the part of the organization there was a special representative for Ukraine.

- Ms Schwarz-Fuchs also presented a concept of cooperation between local communities in Austria and Ukraine through partnerships. She indicated that such communities in both countries had already been found.

Speaker of the House of Representatives of Cyprus Ms Annita Demetriou:

- Ms Demetriou said that following her visit to Poland she conveyed her findings to members of the Cypriot parliament, held a meeting with the Ukrainian ambassador to Cyprus, and briefed the national media on the real face of the refugee crisis. She emphasised the need to fight Russian disinformation and provide reliable information.

- Ms Demetriou stressed the importance of organizing the next meeting of the Women Speakers in Kiev as a sign of solidarity with Ukraine and the need to maintain the periodic nature of the meetings.

- Ms Demetriou expressed support for the initiative to organize a conference in Warsaw on psychological assistance for refugees. She informed that the parliament would send a letter to the competent ministries asking to identify experts who could take part in this event.

- Ms Demetriou also supported the proposal for information leaflets and expressed openness of Cyprus to organize holiday camps for Ukrainian children. She also proposed the creation of an online platform where it would be possible to search for information about opportunities to help refugees, including psychological assistance. She indicated that the platform could also be used to promote translation applications.

- Ms Demetriou indicated that it was necessary to keep the topic of Ukraine and refugee issues on the agenda of international meetings. She informed that in two weeks' time she would participate in the meeting of the speakers of parliaments of micro-states in Monte Carlo and assured that she would present to the participants the conclusions flowing from her visit to Poland.

Speaker of the Congress of Deputies of Spain Ms Meritxell Batet Lamaña:

- Ms Batet Lamaña reported that Spain had been actively involved in supporting Ukraine. Spain sends weapon, supports tough sanctions imposed on Russia, strives to keep the topic of war in Ukraine on the international agenda, and the Spanish society supports the actions taken by the government. She informed that the previous day she held a video conference with Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Ruslan Stafanchuk, from whom she received an invitation to Ukraine. Ms Batet Lamaña also stressed that she informed the Spanish government and the Prime Minister about her visit to Poland in April.

- Ms Batet Lamaña invited Deputy Speaker Kondratiuk to Spain and stressed the importance of maintaining close contacts. She also highlighted the very good Polish-Spanish relations.

- Ms Batet Lamaña informed that the Presidium of the Spanish Parliament would visit Estonia at the beginning of June to learn about NATO activities on its eastern flank. In addition, a meeting with the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament was planned.

Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Ms Olga Richeterova did not take the floor but on the chat she expressed an open support for the proposed initiatives.