**STC**

237 STC 16 E

Original: English

NATO Parliamentary Assembly

##### **SUMMARY**

of the meeting of the Science and Technology Committee

*Grand Ballroom 1*

*Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center*

*Istanbul, Turkey*

Sunday 20 November 2016

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###### ATTENDANCE LIST

**Committee Chairperson** Baroness RAMSAY OF CARTVALE (United Kingdom)

**Acting General Rapporteur** Bruno VITORINO (Portugal)

**Special Rapporteur** Osman Askin BAK (Turkey)

**Sub-Committee on Energy**

**and Environmental Security**

**Rapporteur** Maria MARTENS (Netherlands)

#### President of the NATO PA Michael R. TURNER (United States)

**Secretary General of the NATO PA** David HOBBS

**Member delegations**

Belgium Roel DESEYN

Alain DESTEXHE

Canada Joseph A. DAY

 Cheryl GALLANT

 Matt JENEROUX

 Steven MACKINNON

Croatia Miroslav TUDJMAN

Czech Republic Antonin SEDA

France Michel DESTOT

 Gilbert LE BRIS

Germany Ulrich MÄURER

Hungary Marta DEMETER

Italy Domenico SCILIPOTI ISGRO

Latvia Ivans KLEMENTJEVS

Luxembourg Nancy ARENDT KEMP

Norway Ingunn FOSS

Poland Przemyslaw CZARNECKI

 Waldemar SLUGOCKI

Romania Haralambie VOCHITOIU

Slovenia Matej TONIN

Spain Guillermo MARISCAL

 Begona NASARRE

Turkey Metin BULUT

 Ziya PIR

**Associate delegations**

Armenia Mikayel MELKUMYAN

 Tevan POGHOSYAN

Austria Hubert FUCHS

Azerbaidjan Malahat IBRAHIMGIZI

Serbia Zoran DRAGISIC

 Jasmina NIKOLIC

Ukraine Olga BELKOVA

 Iryna FRIZ

 Oleksii SKRYPNYK

**Regional Partner and Mediterranean**

**Associate Member Delegations**

Algeria Mohamed BENTEBA

 Miloud FERDI

**Parliamentary Guests**

Bahrain Mohamed ALAMMADI

Saudi Arabia Sami Mohammed ZAIDAN

**Speakers Ian ANTHONY**, Director, European Security Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

 **Faruk ÖZLÜ**, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey

**Committee Secretary** Charlotte LITTLEBOY

**International Secretariat** Henrik BLIDDAL, Director

 Anne-Laure BLEUSE, Coordinator

 Linda OHMAN, Research Assistant

**I. Opening remarks by Baroness RAMSAY of CARTVALE (United Kingdom), Chairperson**

1. **Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale** (UK), Chairperson of the Science and Technology Committee (STC) opened the STC meeting at 9:24.

2. In her opening remarks, Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale thanked the Turkish delegation for its hospitality and efforts in preparing the session in Istanbul. She also expressed her concern regarding the situation in Turkey: the country had experienced and continued to experience a national trauma. The chairperson hoped that democratic ideals would not be compromised in the aftermath of the trauma and reminded delegates that the NATO PA delegations were in Istanbul as friends and Allies of Turkey.

3. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale welcomed the two speakers of the day: Faruk Özlü, the Minister of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey, and Ian Anthony, Director of the European Security Programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

4. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale brought attention to the publication *“Deterring to Defend: NATO After the Warsaw Summit”* by Michael R. Turner, President of the NATO PA*.* The newly publishedreport presented recommendations on the importance of strengthening NATO’s deterrence and defence posture. Updated after the NATO Warsaw Summit, it contained a revised analysis of the threats confronting Allies and recommended responses to overcome current challenges. The report stressed that more needed to be done by NATO if it hoped to change Russia’s strategic calculus.

**II. Adoption of the draft Agenda [173 STC 16 E]**

5. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale presented changes in the draft agenda [173 STC 16 E]. Due to changes in Minister Özlü’s schedule, the order of speakerswas altered**. The draft agenda was adopted with changes.**

**III. Adoption of the Summary of the Meeting of the Science and Technology Committee held in Tirana, Albania, on Sunday 29 May 2016 [124 STC 16 E]**

6. The Summary of the Meeting of the Science and Technology Committee held in Tirana, Albania, on Sunday 29 May 2016 [124 STC 16 E] **was adopted** **without changes.**

**IV. Procedure for amendments to the draft Resolution *NATO Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)* [198 STC 16 E] by Philippe VITEL (France), General Rapporteur and presented by Bruno VITORINO (Portugal), Vice-Chairperson**

7. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale reminded the delegates about the procedure for amending the Committee’s 2016 draft Resolution on *NATO Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance* [198 STC 16 E].

**V. Presentation by Ian ANTHONY, Director, European Security Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on *Conventional Arms Control in Europe: Are Conditions Ripe for a Relaunch?***

8. **Dr Ian Anthony** briefly introduced SIPRI and then turned to reflect on recent developments in the field of military security. Dr Anthony recalled an August 2016 article by Frank‑Walter Steinmeier, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, that called for a revised arms control regime in Europe. The initiative’s main objective was to balance necessary steps to strengthen European deterrence and defence with a renewed focus on détente and efforts to improve political relations in Europe. The article described the current situation as a preparatory phase and called for a structured dialogue, but not yet negotiations. The suggested key elements included identification of regional arms ceilings, minimum distances between the positioning of armed forces as well as transparency measures in sensitive regions such as the Baltics and the Black Sea. Further, the existing arms control regimes would need to be updated to meet the prevailing conditions and take into account the increased mobility and rapid movement of units, the integration of new weapon types and updates on verification techniques. Finally, measures were needed to apply arms control in contested conflict areas. Dr Anthony told the delegates that the article had caused considerable discussion, but also a cautious response. The suggestion on transparency measures, in particular raised concerns among Allies who argued that a regionalisation of arms control would weaken the inclusive character of the arms control treaties of the 1990s. Dr Anthony said that there had been indications from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) that it would endorse a way forward on conventional arms control at the OSCE December meeting, in particular.

9. Dr Anthony reminded the delegates that Europe was the only region with a legally binding arms convention as well as confidence and security building measures. Efforts to live up to the existing agreements had however not born fruit, and Dr Anthony stressed that while the instruments were not failing, they were also not achieving the intended results. Dr Anthony agreed with the Minister Steinmeier that the objective should be to create a robust platform for dialogue and find measures that prevent escalation and protect civilians. Furthermore, he pointed out that the instruments available in Europe had to be fully applied, and the opportunity should be taken to tailor the instruments from developments in other forums to a European context, such as international regimes on cluster munition and military equipment transfer.

10. Dr Anthony argued that there were currently no expectations on new legally binding instruments as the current atmosphere was non-conducive for negotiations. In fact, the conditions for strategic stability had corroded in Europe. Dr Anthony said that the momentum for negotiations had often come from the East, and reminded delegates of Gorbachev’s role as a catalyst for the arms control regime of the 1980s and 1990s. Those negotiations were, however, launched in conditions radically different from today’s as Soviet forces had been withdrawn and the Soviet Union’s doctrine had been revised to reflect new principles stating that the Soviet Union was not an initiator of conflict and did not have territorial claims and that stability was based on parity. Thus, they were the very opposite of today’s situation. Despite these obstacles, Dr Anthony welcomed the ongoing discussions and saw potential in the deepening NATO-EU cooperation and a developing common understanding of security problems. He suggested that the issue of balancing détente and deterrence should receive more attention in NATO-EU relations. Further, Dr Anthony called for an honest assessment of the European security system. He recalled that the system established with the Soviet Union did not entail a military dimension for cooperation and questioned whether a comprehensive European security system had existed in the first place.

11. To sum up, Dr Anthony welcomed Minister Steinmeier’s article as a much-needed contribution to the debate on a European security agenda. He reiterated his support for the discussion on a new or revised arms control framework as well as the analysis on the changing nature of conflict and the military security environment in Europe. Dr Anthony said that a new European security system with military security as one of its central elements should take into account the changing conditions for European security and go beyond the existing regimes. In this regard, four aspects should be central: threat definition; containment of crises; prevention of conflict escalation; and protection of civilians in conflict areas.

12. During the discussion period, several questions were raised on arms control and deterrence. Dr Anthony argued that there is a tendency to take steps back from the mechanisms of cooperative threat reduction that were instated during the Cold War. Simultaneously, many countries had caught up in technological capabilities and now constituted a threat. Dr Anthony stressed the significance of NATO’s deterrence measures and regretted that the current political conditions are not permissive for new cooperation in areas such as CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) and cyber. Dr Anthony reiterated that the current situation constituted a preparatory phase for building a future arms control platform.

13. Questions were also raised on European security. Regarding the EU discussion on stricter rules for identifying small arms and light weapons, Dr Anthony explained that the availability of fire arms constituted a threat to European public safety. Not all member states lived up to the regulations currently in place, and the Commission was looking into the possibility of marking weapons with the country of production in order to better trace weapons. Regarding the effect of the US elections on European security and EU security measures, Dr Anthony said that it was too early to assess the consequences. Talking about the outlook for common intelligence and counterintelligence structures on the EU level, Dr Anthony said that chances were low for this to happen as these remained national capacities. Instead, barriers between states should be removed and it was possible that there would be clusters of countries that cooperated closely on these issues in the near term. A delegate raised the question whether there was a need to renew the perception of European security and who the potential adversary could be. Dr Anthony noted that the threat posed by states was de-emphasised in the 1990s, but today traditional approaches to security had re-entered the agenda as the threat picture had become more mixed over the past years. Dr Anthony stated that it was time for an honest discussion in both the transatlantic community and Russia on the situation of European security.

**VI. Presentation by Faruk ÖZLÜ, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey, on *Turkey’s Defence Research and Development Programmes and its Defence Industry***

14. **Faruk Özlü** underlined the importance of technology in maintaining security and outlined the interaction between security challenges and technological trends. The Minister said that following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, a paradigm shift in threat perception took place and introduced a focus on people-centric security. This had posed a challenge to security forces that were equipped and trained for conventional territorial defence. The Minister argued that new technology constituted a potential solution to this security problem as new military technologies had improved precision and surveillance, and emerging technologies hold promises for the future of border security, for example. Minister Özlü recognised that challenges existed related to this trend, such as the increasing role of the private sector as a source of innovation and the proliferation of dual-use technology.

15. Minister Özlü said that Turkey had responded to these trends by improving its domestic defence industry. Effective research and development (R&D) and technology management policies, accompanied with policies favouring domestic defence procurement, had made theTurkish defence industry more dynamic. The Minister told the delegates that the objective of this transition had been to create a competitive defence industry and to guarantee self-sufficiency of the Turkish Armed Forces. Towards this end, R&D roadmaps had been developed to identify the needs of the industry, and consequently cooperation had been established between universities, research centres and the defence industry companies. In addition, Turkey has engaged in international cooperation and had encouraged active participation of the domestic industry in multinational platforms. The Minister argued that, as a result, Turkey had become one of the leading participants of multinational programmes, especially the Airbus A400 and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programmes.

16. Minister Özlü said that the defence sector investment needed to be seen in the context of national security. The Minister argued that Turkey as a NATO Ally acted as a deterrent power in the region and hence was required to maintain a considerable military capability and technological competence and had therefore invested in domestic technologies. Minister Özlü questioned whether NATO took a sufficient role in current security challenges, and whether technological cooperation within NATO was sufficient. He argued that neither was the case and that the insufficient technological collaboration within NATO had negatively affected the Alliance’s efficient management of current security challenges. The Minister recalled that technology itself cannot guarantee security, but security without the support of technology was impossible. He called upon the Alliance to revise the strategy for sharing technology and invited Allies and friendly countries to participate as Technical Support Provider in the procurement of Turkey’s missile system.

17. During the discussion period, **Maria Martens** (NL) expressed her distress over the coup attempt as well as her condolences for the victims and her solidarity with the Turkish people. She also underlined her appreciation of how much Turkey was doing for the refugees on its territory. However, she expressed her concerns over the events taking place in Turkey after the coup attempt, especially the high number of arrests and dismissals immediately following the coup attempt, including judges, mayors, academics, media people and fellow members of parliament. She hoped that Turkey would take actions in conformity with its commitments to the Council of Europe. **Cheryl Gallant** (CA) inquired on the specificities of how the arrests following the coup attempt were made, as she had understood that many arrests were based on the downloading and use of a specific cell phone app. The Minister declined to answer her question, as it was a question for law enforcement and intelligence services. Further questions pertained to areas of cooperation within NATO and on insights into the Turkish defence industry. Minister Özlü asked Allies to increase their efforts in the fight against Daesh. The Minister also stated that NATO Allies had to increase technology sharing in order to increase cyber security. Regarding the funding of the Airbus A400 that Turkey is planning to acquire, Minister Özlü told delegates that the national aircraft company TAI was the main shareholder. TAI was co-owned by the state (45%) and the foundation of the Turkish Armed Forces (55%), and involved many domestic, private sector sub-contractors in the project. When asked whether the Turkish government had a programme in place to control procurement and exports, Minister Özlü argued that the process was very transparent. He explained that the procurement agency was a state agency led by senior officials and that the process was open to companies. Delegates also asked about regional conflicts.

**VII. Consideration of the draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Technology Trends and Security *Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Terrorism: The Rise of Daesh and Future Challenges* [175 STCTTS 16 E] by Maria MARTENS (Netherlands), Rapporteur**

18. Maria Martens presented the draft Report on *Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Terrorism: The Rise of Daesh and Future Challenges* and focused on the latest developments as well as updates since the STC’s last meeting. Ms Martens informed the delegates that Daesh continued to use chemical weapons in Iraq and Syria, despite international efforts. Mosul would be a major test, and the Rapporteur voiced concerns that Daesh would use chemical weapons as a last resort. Ms Martens stressed that Allies cannot be complacent.

19. Switching to the longer-term outlook, Ms Martens told the delegates that science and technology could help counter CBRN threats more effectively, but that there was also a risk of abuse by states and terrorists. Since the STC’s last meeting, the section on science and technology had been expanded to include the six areas of chemical and biological trends, nanotechnology, unmanned vehicles, cyber technologies, and additive manufacturing or 3D printing. Ms Martens briefly presented the developments in these areas and the implications for CBRN terrorism.

20. There was no fully-formed government approach to the changing CBRN threat yet nor a clear idea of what a new security paradigm could look like. Ms Martens explained that there were three obstacles to this: First, technology developments increasingly happened in the private sector where authorities had less insight; second, smaller companies and even individuals were challenging big companies as drivers of change; and third, more countries outside the Alliance had been pushing the technological envelope. Ms Martens reminded that terrorists still faced substantial obstacles for CBRN terrorism, but that the risks were real and growing. Therefore, Ms Martens called upon parliaments to allocate the necessary resources to counter CBRN terrorism and urged the international community to strengthen the international regime and block terrorists from obtaining CBRN weapons.

21. It was noted that an amendment had been presented prior to the meeting. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale invited **Osman Askin Bak** (TR) to present it. Mr Bak suggested a different wording in paragraph 19 that took note on the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) statement regarding chemical weapons facilities in Syria. Ms Martens agreed on the amendment.

22. During the discussion period, Ms Martens clarified the extent of Daesh’s use of CBRN weapons. One delegate talked about the dangers emanating from the misuse of chlorine and other dual-use substances and suggested the introduction of securing measures. Ms Martens shared the delegate’s concern about dual-use substances and pointed out that the report touched upon the need to examine the rules regarding these substances. One delegate raised the issue of cyber security and NATO cooperation in that area. Ms Martens replied that this was touched upon in the report, although it had not been a primary focus of the report. Ms Martens agreed that more cooperation was needed on cyber security and said that next year’s Sub-Committee report on the *Internet of Things* would likely address the topic.

23. **The draft report of the Sub-Committee on Technology Trends and Security *Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Terrorism: The Rise of Daesh and Future Challenges* [175 STCTTS 16 E],** **as amended, was adopted.**

**VIII. Consideration of the *Draft Terms of Reference for the Committees and the Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group* [217 SC 16 E] presented by Baroness RAMSAY of CARTVALE (United Kingdom), Chairperson**

24. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale presented the revised Terms of Reference. This was a result of the Assembly’s follow-up on Vice-President Angelien Eijsink’s (NL) report on gender. The document was based on one of the presented proposals that suggested to mainstream gender into the Committees’ and the Middle East Special Group’s official Terms of Reference. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale stated that the STC Director had drafted suggestions along the lines of the proposals and had also updated the Terms of Reference with some topics that the STC covered but were not yet mentioned in them. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale informed the Committee that the Terms of Reference would be put to the Standing Committee for approval during its meeting later the same day.

25. **The *Draft Terms of Reference for the Committees and the Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group* [217 SC 16 E] were adopted without amendments.**

**IX. Presentation of the Report *Deterring to Defend: NATO After the Warsaw Summit* by Michael R. Turner (United States), President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly**

26. Before giving the floor to President Michael R. Turner (US), Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale thanked him for his successful presidency and especially for his appreciation of the STC’s work over the years.

27. President Turner thanked Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale for her leadership and chairmanship. President Turner informed the delegates that he had represented the NATO PA at the Warsaw Summit and had put forward three central topics of the Assembly: first, the deterrence of adversaries; second, increasing defence spending and improving burden sharing, and; third, maintaining the open-door policy and especially ensuring a smooth transition for Montenegro to become an Alliance member.

28. President Turner gave a brief presentation of his report *Deterring to Defend: NATO After the Warsaw Summit.* He stressed that deterrence was a means to an end and aimed to deter attacks on NATO territory by having both a credible capacity to defend the member states and make adversaries pay an unacceptable price for aggression if they choose to engage in one. The updated report dealt with Russian aggressions and the threat posed by Russia and suggested measures for NATO to undertake. President Turner thanked the STC for the support for the section on Russia’s military modernisation programme and also thanked NATO PA Secretary General David Hobbs and NATO PA Deputy Secretary General Ruxandra Popa for their work on the report.

29. Regarding the recent US election, President Turner expressed confidence in the new administration’s support for NATO as President-Elect Trump had expressed assurances for the Alliance. He also stated that the next administration’s security team seemed to share the views of NATO PA in terms of security challenges and the steps ahead for the Alliance.

30. Delegates raised questions on the future of the Iran deal and the prospects of US-Russia cooperation in Syria. They also asked President Turner to comment on Minister Özlü’s call for increased NATO cooperation in the field of technology. Several delegates also expressed their country’s commitment to increased defence spending. Regarding the Iran deal, President Turner explained that the deal was not considered a binding treaty in the United States, as it was agreed by the Obama administration but never put before the Senate. The Trump administration can therefore choose whether it wanted to abide by it. The president expressed his personal concerns over how strong the deal is and argued that it placed Europe at risk. He expected there would be a discussion on the deal. President Turner expressed his concern about Russia’s increasing anti‑access/area-denial capabilities in Syria and beyond. He argued that this would eventually require a NATO or US response, and the issue needed to be included in the NATO-Russia and US-Russia agendas. The president was confident that the new US administration would maintain or strengthen US participation in NATO operations. At the same time, it would seek increased dialogue with Russia, but a prerequisite for fruitful dialogue would be that President Putin came to the table with a different temperament. Regarding increased NATO technology cooperation, President Turner agreed with the Minister’s statement. He argued that NATO needed to be ahead of the challenges it was facing, and technology was key in this regard. The President was assured that NATO was uniquely qualified to meet security challenges and assure its members. Finally, President Turner used the opportunity to applause Turkey for successfully balancing NATO and its own neighbourhood challenges and stressed the symbolic value of NATO PA convening in Istanbul and showing support for Turkey’s democracy.

**X. Consideration of the draft General Report *The Future of Allied Airborne Intelligence,***

 ***Surveillance and Reconnaissance* [174 STC 16 E] by Philippe VITEL (France), General**

 **Rapporteur, and presented by Bruno VITORINO (Portugal), Vice-Chairperson**

31. **Bruno Vitorino** (PT) introduced the draft General Report *The Future of Allied Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance* as well as the draft Resolution based on it. Mr Vitorino started by providing examples of the importance of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) and mentioned four recent developments: the NATO AWACS employed in the fight against Daesh; NATO’s Standing Maritime Group 2 contribution to the patrols in the Aegean; NATO’s Sea Guardian maritime operation; and lastly the reconnaissance conducted along the Alliance’s Eastern border to provide intelligence and reassure Allies. Mr Vitorino then turned to present updates to the report that reflected both proposals made in Tirana and recent events. A section had been added that provided an overview of major ISR efforts in Allied states, and the report also discussed decisions taken at the Warsaw Summit to continue enhancing NATO’s Joint ISR initiative.

32. Turning to the draft Resolution, Mr Vitorino said that it stressed the necessity for the Alliance to continue supporting efforts to sustain and further develop ISR capabilities. An important element was the need to increase interoperability and integration among Allies, especially between US and European systems. Furthermore, the Resolution called for Allies to examine the possibility of a follow-up on multinational research and development efforts to the previous effort called MAJIIC2 and address aspects that at times had restricted intelligence sharing. Mr Vitorino said that the Resolution also stressed the importance of sustaining investment in ISR capabilities and funding for upgrading the NATO AWACS as well as increased investment in science and technology relevant to airborne ISR.

33. During the discussion period, one of the delegates asked about NATO’s stance on the purpose of ISR. Mr Vitorino explained that the starting point was to increase information sharing within the Alliance and thereby enable cooperation on science and technology. He highlighted the need to raise political awareness on the issue.

34. **The Draft General Report on *The Future of Allied Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance* [174 STC 16 E] was adopted without changes*.***

**XI. Consideration of amendments and vote on the draft Resolution *NATO Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance* [198 STC 16 E] by Philippe VITEL (France), General Rapporteur, and presented by Bruno VITORINO (Portugal), Vice‑Chairperson.**

35. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale noted that one amendment had been proposed by Osman Askin Bak on paragraph 9. Mr Bak noted that Mr Vitorino and he had come to an agreed wording different from the amendment. He thus withdrew his amendment. Bruno Vitorino explained the agreed language change and proposed it as an oral amendment. The new language was accepted by acclamation.

36. **The Draft Resolution *NATO Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)* [198 STC 16 E], as amended, was adopted unanimously.**

**XII. Consideration of the draft Special Report *The Iranian Nuclear Programme: How to Build Upon the Deal* [176 STC 16 E] by Osman Askin BAK (Turkey), Special Rapporteur**

37. Before handing the floor to Osman Askin Bak, Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale congratulated him on concluding the report despite the domestic turmoil in Turkey. Mr Bak thanked the NATO PA for its support and for convening in Istanbul.

38. Mr Bak presented the draft Special Report *The Iranian Nuclear Programme: How to Build Upon the Deal* and said that following the US presidential elections, the future of the Iran deal was open. Nevertheless, the Rapporteur stated that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was still a comprehensive, negotiated and long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear dispute that brought benefits to all partners to the deal and allowed the international community to better manage the risks coming from Iran’s nuclear programme.

39. Mr Bak presented an update on the implementation of the deal. He argued that Iranian compliance with the agreement had been better than expected. However, he called for increased transparency in the reports provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency when assessing Iran’s compliance with the deal. Regarding sanctions, Mr Bak said that there was a mutual blame game underway and he stressed that all signatories had to follow their obligations. He also called for patience on Iran’s part when it came to economic recovery. Iran also had to engage in reforms necessary to spur economic growth. The Rapporteur stated that he stood by his report and presented four recommendations that would strengthen monitoring and verification of the deal.

40. Mr Bak said that the near future was a period of uncertainty as the United States and Iran might wait for the counterpart to not live up to its commitments and then abandon the deal. The Rapporteur stressed the importance to stand behind the deal at this crucial point in time and work constructively with all signatories. Mr Bak asked the STC to adopt the draft Report, with an amendment that would add a disclaimer that the report was drafted before the US elections.

41. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale recognised that the report reflected the situation before the recent US elections and suggested to adopt the report as recommended by Mr Bak. Several delegates expressed their support for the report and recognised its validity as of today. Questions were raised on the problems surrounding the lifting of sanctions. Mr Bak explained that despite what critics argued, economic relations with Iran were improving. However, it took time to build confidence and restore the business network. Mr Bak also pointed out that it was too early to assess the success of the agreement. Mr Bak highlighted the importance of the deal in supporting peace and security in the region and stressed that all countries had to live up to the agreement.

42. **The Draft Special Report *The Iranian Nuclear Programme: How to Build Upon the Deal* [176 STC 16 E] as amended was adopted unanimously.**

**XIII. Election of Committee and Sub-Committee officers**

43. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale called the Committee’s attention to the elections of Committee officers. She proposed to start by electing officers to the positions currently open and then move on to officers who are eligible to stand again for their position and do not want to switch.

 **Chairperson of the STC**

44.As **Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale** (UK) had served for three years and could not stand for the position again, the position of Chairperson of the STC was open. The Committee had received the candidacy of **Philippe Vitel** (FR), who **was elected by acclamation**.

 **Vice-Chairperson of the STC**

45. **Maria Martens** (NL) had put forward the only candidacy for the vacant position of Vice‑Chairperson and **was elected by acclamation**.

 **General Rapporteur of the STC**

46. As Philippe Vitel had been elected Chairperson of the STC, there was a vacancy for the position as General Rapporteur. Congressman **Tom Marino** (US) had put forward the only candidacy for the position and**was elected by acclamation***.*

 **Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Technology Trends and Security (STCTTS)**

47. There was a vacancy for Chairperson as Jan Arild Ellingsen (NO) had also come to the end of his third term. **Sven Mikser** (EE)had put forward his candidacy and **was elected by acclamation**.

 **Vice-Chairpersons of the STCTTS**

48. Two positions were vacant, as Sven Mikser had been elected Chair of the STCTTS and Congressman Richard Nugent (US) had not run for Congress again. **Maria Demeter** (HU) and **Ziya Pir** (TR) had put forward their names and **were elected by acclamation.**

 **Rapporteur of the STCTTS**

49. As Maria Martens had been elected Vice-Chair of the STC, there was a vacancy as Rapporteur. **Matej Tonin**(SI)stood for the position as Rapporteur of the STCTTS and **was elected by acclamation.**

 **Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council**

50. There were four vacancies for STC representatives to the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council. The Committee received the candidacies of **Domenico Scilipoti Isgro** (IT) and **Osman Askin Bak** (TR) for the two positions as members on the Council and **Antonin Seda** (CZ) as alternate member. All **were elected by acclamation**.

51. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale noted that the fourth seat remained unfilled and that a fourth STC representative could be elected during the next Session.

 **Re-elections to STC positions**

52. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale told the Committee that three officers wished to stay in their current positions. **Jacques Gautier** (FR) and **Bruno Vitorino** (PT) wished to continue as Vice‑Chairs of the STC, **Osman Askin Bak** (TR) as General Rapporteur, and **Domenico Scilipoti** **Isgro** (IT) as Sub-Committee Vice-Chair. **All were re-elected by acclamation**.

**XIV. 2017 Science and Technology Committee visits and activities**

53. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale reviewed the past and upcoming visits, starting with the three successful visits in the past year to Washington, DC in April, the Sub-Committee visit to Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands in August and to Italy in October. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale thanked the delegations of the hosting countries for their excellent support in making the visits successful.

54. Three visits were planned for 2017. First, the full Committee had planned a joint visit with the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations to Canada. Topics would include the High North, climate change and security and energy security. Second, the Sub-Committee had looked into the possibility of visiting Germany to learn more about the Internet of Things. Third, the Sub‑Committee was considering a visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories to, among other things, gain more insight into the topic of water security and related technologies.

55. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale presented the report topics of 2017. The General Report would be on *Keeping the Edge on Transatlantic Defence and Security S&T: The Challenges of Emerging Technologies*, a Special Report would look at *Water Security*, and the Sub-Committee Report would cover *The Internet of Things.*

**XIV. Any other business**

56. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale informed the Committee that the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), based in Abu Dhabi, had forwarded an invitation to members of the STC to the 2017 IRENA Legislators Forum on “Renewable Energy – the Role of Legislators in Catalyzing Action,” to be held in Abu Dhabi on 12 and 13 January 2017. Any members interested to participate would do so as individual members of their national parliaments and not as representatives of the NATO PA.

57. Maria Martens thanked Baroness Ramsay and Mr Ellingsen for their work on the Committee in their respective roles as chairs and Sub-Committee chair and recalled the achievements of the STC over the past three years. Thanks to their efforts, the prestige of the STC had increased and the challenges, opportunities and possible dangers of science and technology innovations had been more widely recognised. Ms Martens especially thanked the President of Committee for her openness, respectful manner and diplomatic skills shown during the presidency. Dr Scilipoti Isgroagreed and thanked Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale for her work.

58. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale thanked the delegates and said that it had been a privilege to chair the Committee.

**XV. Date and place of the next meeting**

59. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale informed the delegates that the STC would next convene in Tbilisi, Georgia, during the next NATO PA Spring Session to be held on 26-29 May 2017.

**XVI. Final remarks**

60. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale concluded the meeting of the Science and Technology Committee and thanked the guest speakers, observers and hosts from the Turkish Parliament.

**XVII. End of meeting**

61. The meeting was closed at 15:18.

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