

6 October 2008  
Synopsis AS/Jur No 2008/07

## To the Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2008

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg

- on 29 September 2008 at 14 h with Mrs Herta Däubler-Gmelin (Germany, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:
- **Proposed 42-day pre-charge detention in the United Kingdom** (*Rapporteur: Mr Klaas de Vries, Netherlands, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution, with a view to presenting them at the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> part-session of 2008;
- **Exchange of views organised by the Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport at the European Youth Centre** (*Strasbourg, 30 September 2008 at 18 h*): appointed Mr Sergey Markov (Russian Federation, EDG) to represent it at this event;

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- on 30 September 2008 at 8 h 30 with Mrs Däubler-Gmelin in the Chair, as regards:
- **Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
- **Situation in Cyprus** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): considered a report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee and approved an opinion and seven amendments to the draft resolution;
- **Human rights situation in the zones affected by the war between Georgia and Russia**: held an exchange of views with the following representatives of Human Rights Watch:
  - Mrs Tanya Lokshina, Deputy Director, Moscow Office
  - Mr Giorgi Gogia, South Caucasus Researcher;

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- on 1 October 2008 at 14 h with Mrs Däubler-Gmelin in the Chair, as regards:
- **The situation of national minorities in Voivodina and of the Romanian ethnic minority in Serbia** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jürgen Herrmann, Germany, EPP/CD*): asked Mr Holger Haibach (Germany, EPP/CD) to present the report in the absence of the Rapporteur and took position on the amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation;

- **Consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): considered a report tabled by the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe and approved an opinion and seven amendments to the draft resolution;

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- **on 2 October 2008 at 8 h 30** with Mrs Däubler-Gmelin in the Chair, as regards:
- **Guantanamo Bay**: approved a public statement urging European governments to provide humanitarian protection for detainees at risk of torture;
- **Proposed 42-day pre-charge detention in the United Kingdom** (*Rapporteur: Mr Klaas de Vries, Netherlands, SOC*): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee**: took note of the following reply:
  - Child victims: stamping out all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*);
- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** heard a report on the following event:
  - OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension meeting on Sustainable Policies for Roma and Sinti Integration (Vienna, 10-11 July 2008): Mr József Berényi (Slovak Republic, EPP/CD);
- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:**
  - Conference on Human Rights Defenders, organised by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (Strasbourg, 3-4 November 2008): Mr Holger Haibach (Germany, EPP/CD);
- **The need of a global consideration of human rights implications of biometrics** (*Mrs Florentina Toma, Romania, SOC*): decided to ask the Bureau to extend the mandate until 21 January 2010;
- **Membership of sub-committees:**
  - *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: Mrs Karin Hakl (Austria, EPP/CD) to become a member with Mr Andreas Schieder (Austria, SOC) as alternate;
- **Next meetings:**

*Plenary Committee:*

  - Moscow (Russian Federation), Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 November 2008
  - Paris, Thursday 11 December 2008 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1<sup>st</sup> part-session of 2009 (26 - 30 January)

*Sub-Committee on Human Rights:*

  - Limassol (Cyprus), Monday 24 November 2008

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Catherine Maffucci-Hugel, Isild Heurtin

cc: Secretary General and secretariat of the Assembly  
 Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly  
 Observers to the Assembly  
 Secretary General of the Congress  
 Directors General  
 Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
 Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
 Director of Communication  
 Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe