



Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND POPULATION

Synopsis AS/MIG/2008/CB/06

6 October 2008

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, meeting in Strasbourg, on 29 September, 1 and 2 October 2008,

- **On 29 September 2008, at 2.00 pm**, with Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

as regards:

- ***Debate under urgent procedure: consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia***: heard a statement by its Chair on her visit to Georgia and Russia and appointed her as Rapporteur for opinion;
- ***The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the global economy 2008***: heard a statement by Mr Zernovski (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, ALDE), Spokesperson, and approved an amendment to the provisional report;
- ***Migration and mobility in the Eurasian region – prospects for the future*** (Rapporteur : Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC): approved a draft report and adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation;
- ***Europe’s “boat people”, mixed migration flows by sea into Southern Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Østergaard, Denmark, ALDE): held an exchange of views;

- **On 1 October 2008, at 2.00 pm**, with first Mr Çavoşoğlu (Turkey, EDG), and then with Mrs Jonker in the Chair,

as regards:

- ***Debate under urgent procedure: consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia*** (Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Jonker, Netherlands, EPP/CD): approved a draft opinion;
- ***Solving property issues of refugees and displaced persons*** (Rapporteur: Mr Dendias, Greece, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and considered a preliminary draft report;
- ***Exchange of views with Mrs Sonia ESCUDERO, Secretary General of the Latin American Parliament, Senator of Argentina***: heard a statement by Mrs Escudero and held an exchange of views;

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General in the Secretariat of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of Communication
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **On 2 October 2008, at 2.00 pm, with Mrs Jonker in the Chair,**

as regards:

- ***The problem of environmental refugees*** (Rapporteur: Mrs Ackefors (Sweden, ALDE): considered a preliminary draft report, held an exchange of views, decided to modify the title of the report as follows: “The need for international recognition and protection of environmentally induced migrants” and to return to this item before the end of the year, and authorised the Rapporteur’s attendance at the International Conference on Environment, Forced Migration and Social Vulnerability (Bonn, 9-11 October 2008), subject to the availability of funds;
- ***Migration in Europe: a constant challenge*** (Rapporteur: Mr Preda, Romania, EPP/CD): appointed Mrs Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE) as Rapporteur, to replace Mr Preda, who resigned as Rapporteur;
- ***Riots in European cities: lessons and Council of Europe response*** (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE): held an exchange of views and approved a draft opinion as amended;
- ***Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe Member States*** (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
- ***European expatriates: relations to their countries of origin*** (Rapporteur: Mrs Bilozir, Ukraine, EPP/CD): considered a preliminary draft report, held an exchange of views and decided to modify the title as follows: “Working migration and diasporas: individual rights and governmental responsibilities”;
- ***Work programme:***

Appointment of rapporteurs

- *Unaccompanied minors in Europe: issues of arrival, stay and return:* appointed Mrs Reps (Estonia, ALDE) and authorised her to carry out a fact-finding visit to Spain preceding the meeting of the plenary Committee in the Canary Islands (subject to the availability of funds);
- *Report on the humanitarian consequences of the conflict between Georgia and Russia:* appointed Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur, subject to the decision of the Bureau to invite the Committee to prepare a report, and in this eventuality, authorised the Rapporteur to make a fact-finding mission to Georgia and Russia, subject to the availability of funds;

Representation of the Committee at various events

Appointments:

- *17th CCME General Assembly (Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe)* (Protaras, Cyprus, 7-11 October 2008): appointed a member of the delegation of Cyprus, at no cost to the Assembly;
- *Conference on “Ten years of guiding principles on internal displacement”* (Oslo, 16-17 October 2008): appointed Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD), subject to the availability of funds;
- *International Round Table on Roma and Ashkali and Egyptians of Kosovo, organised by “Project on Ethnic Relations” (PER)* (Vienna, 21-22 October 2008): appointed Mrs Banović (Serbia, EPP/CD), subject to the availability of funds;
- *Workshop on the future of regularisations in Europe, organised by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)* (Bonn, 30 October 2008): appointed Mr Greenway (United Kingdom, EDG), subject to the availability of funds;
- *Conference on Human rights in culturally diverse societies: challenges and perspectives* (The Hague, 12-13 November 2008): appointed Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD), at no cost to the Assembly;

Statements:

- *Meeting on Europe and Migration, organised by the French National Assembly and the European Parliament (Brussels, 10-11 September 2008):* heard a statement by its Chairperson;

– **Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Migration in Kyiv (Ukraine), 4-5 September 2008** - *Participation in the 8th Council of Europe Conference of European Ministers responsible for Migration Affairs and European Parliamentary Forum on Economic Migration, Social Cohesion and Development:* took note of the final Declaration of the Conference;

– **Next meetings:** took note of the draft programme of the meeting of the plenary Committee in Geneva and decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Plenary Committee:

- Geneva (Switzerland), 25-26 November 2008: Seminars on
 - (i) Europe's population decline and migration
 - (ii) Human Rights of IDPs
 - (iii) Rights of all migrant workers and their families
- Canary Islands (Spain), 11-12 December 2008
- Strasbourg, during the 1st part of the session 2009 (26-30 January 2009)
- The Hague (Netherlands), 26-27 March 2009 (*to be confirmed and subject to the Bureau's authorisation*)
- Strasbourg, during the 2nd part of the session 2009 (27-30 April 2009)

Halvor Lervik, Mark Neville, Ivi Odrats