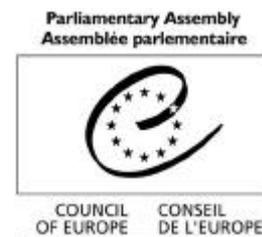


# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Political Affairs Committee  
Commission des questions politiques



## FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

#### **AS/Pol/CB (2007) 06**

29 June 2007

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 25 to 28 June 2007, with Mr Ates (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **Combating anti-Semitism in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG): took position on amendments tabled to the draft Resolution;
- **Iran's nuclear programme: the need for an international response** (Rapporteur: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/CD): took note that no amendments were tabled to the draft Resolution;
- **Debate under urgent procedure: "How to prevent cyber-crime against state institutions in member and observer states?"**: appointed Mr Agramunt (Spain, SOC) as Rapporteur for opinion, approved a draft opinion and tabled amendments to the draft Resolution prepared by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- **Promotion by Council of Europe member states of an international moratorium on the death penalty** (Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Aburto, Spain, SOC): approved a draft opinion and tabled an amendment to the draft Resolution prepared by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- **Compliance by observer countries with the standards of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Wilshire, United Kingdom, EDG): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum by the Rapporteur, agreed to ask the Bureau for an extension of the validity of the reference for the preparation of the report until the end of 2007, and for authorisation for the Rapporteur to visit Japan and the United States;
- **Situation in Cyprus** (Rapporteur: Mr Hörster, Germany, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum by the Rapporteur, discussed a timetable for future work and agreed not to present a report on the issue at the October part-session;

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

- **European Muslim communities confronted with extremism** (Rapporteur: Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP/CD): considered a draft memorandum and agreed to ask the Bureau for an extension of the validity of the reference for the preparation of the report until the end of March 2008;
- **Developments as regards the future status of Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom, ALDE): considered an outline report, and authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to the region;
- **Provisional name of the Republic of Macedonia in the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD): took note of a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to carry out fact-finding visits to Skopje and Athens;
- **Possibilities of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Lebanon** (Rapporteur: Mr Brincat, Malta, SOC): agreed to ask the Bureau for an extension of the validity of the reference for the preparation of the report;
- **Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly** (Rapporteur: Mr Iwinski, Poland, SOC): took note of an oral statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to ask the Bureau for the authorisation for the Rapporteur to visit the country in autumn 2007;
- **Use by Assembly members of their “double mandate”, national and European** (Rapporteur: Lord Tomlinson, United Kingdom, SOC): took note of a draft memorandum;
- **Use of experiences of “the Truth Commissions”** (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): took note of an outline programme for the hearing to be held in Paris, on 13 September 2007;
- **Situation in Belarus** (Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, NR): took note of a statement by Mr Herkel, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Belarus, on the meeting of the sub-Committee held the morning of the 28 June 2007, and decided to ask an independent constitutional expert to draft an opinion on the text of the Small Constitution drafted by the Belarusian opposition forces;
- **Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union** (Former Rapporteur: Mr Ates, Turkey, SOC): heard a statement, considered a memorandum prepared by the former Rapporteur, took note of the Bureau’s request that the Committee monitor regularly the implementation of the MoU and report back to it as and when appropriate and appointed Mr Wilshire, (United Kingdom, EDG) to monitor the implementation of the MoU;
- **International Conference on Pan-European Co-operation “Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue** (St-Petersburg, 31 May - 1 June 2007): took note of a statement by Mr Iwinski, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on external relations;
- **Forum for the future of democracy** (Stockholm/Sigtuna, 13-15 June 2007): heard a statement by Mr Lindblad, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy;
- **Vote on the appointment of a Rapporteur on Developments as regards the future status of Kosovo**: took note of a Note providing a factual account of the vote of 19 April 2007, prepared by the Secretariat, held an exchange of views and asked its Chair to refer the issue to the President of the Assembly;
- **The role of private military services and their political implications**: heard a presentation by, and held an exchange of views with Mr Rolf Uessler, expert on private security firms, and noted that a draft motion had been prepared on the matter;
- **Future work:**
  - A) Appointment of Rapporteurs**: appointed:
    - . Mr Eörsi (Hungary, ALDE) Rapporteur on *Attitude to memorials to fighters against fascism in Council of Europe member states: and decided to modify the title of the report to “Attitude to memorials exposed to different historical interpretations in Council of Europe member states”*;
    - . Mr Pflug (Germany, SOC) Rapporteur on *Ban of cluster munitions*;

**B) Authorisation of visits:** decided to ask the Bureau for the following authorisations:

. Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC) Rapporteur on Strengthening the co-operation with the Maghreb countries, *to visit Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in autumn 2007*;

. *Fact-finding visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories by a delegation of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East*, composed by the Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Rapporteur on the Middle East, and five members representing all political groups;

**C) Participation in external events:** approved:

. Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) *Round Table on the Implementation of the European Court judgments in the Chechen Republic (Moscow, 3-4 July 2007)*;

**D) Sub-Committees:** appointed:

. Mrs Hurskainen (Finland) as member of the *Sub-Committees on External Relations and on Belarus*;

. Mr Kaikkonen (Finland) as member of the *Sub-Committee on the Middle East*.

- **Next meetings:**

. Paris, 13 September 2007 (including a hearing on Truth Commissions)

. Strasbourg – fourth part-session (1-5 October 2007)

. Paris, 13 November 2007

. Paris, 11 December 2007

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**Sub-Committee on the Middle East** (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 26 June 2007, with Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC) in the Chair:

As regards:

- **Situation in the Middle East:** held an exchange of views

- **Future activities:** agreed to propose to the Political Affairs Committee to establish an ad hoc committee headed by the Chair of the Sub-Committee and composed of the Rapporteur on the Middle East and a representative of each of the five political groups to visit Israel and the Palestinian territories in the last week of September 2007;

- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

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**Sub-Committee on Belarus** (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 28 June 2007, with Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

*As regards:*

- **Belarus' economic and energy relations and their consequences on Belarusian foreign policy:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Alexander Chubrik, Economist at the Institute for Privatization and Management Research Center, Minsk and Mr Andrey Suzdaltsev, Politologist at the State University, Higher School of Economics, Moscow;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, NR*): considered a memorandum;
- **Request for an expert opinion on the Small Constitution:** decided to propose to the Committee to ask for an independent constitutional expert to draft an opinion;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner, Eliza Pieter, Oscar Alarcon