

27 June 2012

Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe – European Parliament
Joint Informal Body¹

Synopsis
of the meeting held in Paris on 19 June 2012

The Joint Informal Body meeting in Paris, with Messrs Pietro Marcenaro, Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly, (Italy, SOC), and Carlo Casini, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament, (Italy, EPP/CD), in the Chair, as regards the *Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights*:

- took stock of the situation regarding EU accession to the Convention and welcomed the decision of the two sides involved to resume negotiations with a view to finalising the legal instruments setting out the modalities for accession; decided to follow closely negotiations and, if need be, prompt progress at the political level;
- as concerns the manner in which representatives of the European Parliament are to take part and vote within the Parliamentary Assembly's different bodies in the process of electing judges to the European Court of Human Rights, took note of the change in the internal procedures of the Parliamentary Assembly, whereby the Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights no longer takes part in the election process;
- agreed in principle to hold a further meeting before the end of the year, and supported the idea that the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly jointly organise a colloquy on the subject of the consequences of EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights in the spring of 2013 (subject to the availability of funds);
- took note of a statement to be issued by the co-chairs.

¹ The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the European Parliament (EP) established this Joint Informal Body upon the initiative of the EP "*in order to coordinate information sharing*": see § 34 of EP Resolution of 19 May 2010 on the institutional aspects of the accession of the EU to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) (2009/2241 (INI)).