

29 June 2007
Synopsis No 2007/31

To the Members of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 25 to 28 June 2007

The **Committee on Culture, Science and Education** meeting in Strasbourg on 26, 27 and 28 June 2007 with Mr Legendre and then Mr McIntosh in the chair:

- protested against the procedure by which the Assembly decided to relegate to Friday the joint debate on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and to refer back to the Committee the report by Mr Lengagne on the dangers of creationism in education;
- expressed support to Mr Lengagne, who was leaving the Assembly, and appointed Mrs Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) to succeed him as rapporteur on the dangers of creationism in education and reaffirmed that it was a politically topical question and expressed its determination to see its report on the order of business for the next plenary session in October;
- took note of the opinions by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion;
- took position on amendments to the draft recommendations on “state, religion; secularity and human rights” and “blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion”;
- expressed dissatisfaction at aspects of the handling of the meetings with the CIS Assembly in St Petersburg;
- discussed the preparation of a Colloquy on European literature to be held in Torún (Poland) on 22 October 2007;
- held an exchange of views on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages with Mr Horn, Secretary of the Charter, and proposed to take stock of the first ten years of the Charter and report to the Assembly;
- decided to ask to be seized for an opinion on minority protection in Europe: best practices and deficiencies (Doc. 11261rev.);
- received a delegation of Aromanians from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” as well as from France, Germany and Romania, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Recommendation 1333 (1997) on the Aromanian culture and language;

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

- was informed by Mr Wodarg on the meeting of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) (Strasbourg, 4-8 June);
- was informed by Mr Sorinas, Secretary General of the Assembly, on the setting up of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (Strasbourg, 18 June);
- was informed by Mr Zingeris on preparations for a colloquy on legal instruments relating to heritage to take place in Vilnius on 11-13 October, on the meetings of Europa Nostra in Stockholm on 6-7 June, and of a meeting on the protection of Jewish cemeteries in Strasbourg on 27 June 2007;
- considered the replies by the Committee of Ministers to Recommendations 1750 on education for balanced development in school (Rapporteur: Mr Korobeynikov) and 1758 on follow-up to the Third Summit: priority for cultural cooperation (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig);
- appointed the following rapporteurs:
 - Baroness Hooper (UK, EDG) for a contribution to the OECD debate;
 - Mr Pollozhani ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", SOC) for an opinion on the role of women in modern society, including in intercultural and interreligious dialogue;
- noted that its Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport was to hold a hearing on the European sport model on 14 September 2007 in Strasbourg and decided to hold its next meeting earlier that same day.

The **Sub-Committee on Cultural heritage**, meeting on 25 June 2007 with Baroness Hooper in the chair:

- was informed by Mr O'Hara, General Rapporteur, on developments concerning specific issues and with regard to:
 - St Joseph Cathedral (Bucharest) - regretted the lack of any response from the Romanian Minister of Culture to criticism of the adjacent new building;
 - Akhtamar Church (Lake Van, Turkey) - welcomed the restoration of this 10th century Armenian church by the Turkish authorities;
 - dam construction - expressed continued concern at the dam construction affecting cultural heritage in Greece (Acheloo valley) and Turkey (Allianoi and Ilisu);
 - South Caucasus heritage - noted the intention of the General Rapporteur to go ahead with his study visit at the end of the summer;
 - Cyprus heritage - was informed on the European Parliament hearing on the protection of cultural heritage in Cyprus (Brussels, 11 April);
 - International Museum of the Reformation (Geneva) - was informed of the local ceremony (Geneva, 11 May)
- agreed to a message from the acting chair on the occasion of the return of the mediaeval stained glass to the Marienkirche, Frankfurt an der Oder (Germany);
- took note of the programme for the conference it was organising, together with the Steering Committee on Cultural Heritage, on international conventions and major texts for heritage conservation (Vilnius, 11-13 October);
- was invited to take part in a discussion on the protection of Jewish cemeteries with the Rabbinical Centre of Europe on 27 June;
- decided to hold its next meeting (subject to Bureau authorisation) in Belgrade on 20-22 September on the occasion of the launch of European Heritage Days.

The **Sub-Committee on the Media**, meeting in Strasbourg on 28 June 2007 with Mr Walter in the chair:

- called again for the immediate release of BBC journalist Alan Johnston;
- asked Mr McIntosh to prepare a memorandum on possible follow-up to paragraph 14 of Assembly Resolution 1535 (2007) on threats to the lives and freedom of expression of journalists and decided to invite the media organisations referred to in this Resolution to its next meeting;
- held an exchange of views with representatives of media and civil society from Belarus on the media situation there and decided to follow-up this subject;
- heard a presentation by Mr Malinowski, DGII, on the intergovernmental activities of the Council of Europe in the media field and decided to co-operate more closely with the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC);
- decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the next part-session of the Assembly (1-5 October).

Christopher Grayson, João Ary, Rüdiger Dossow