

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

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Synopsis No. 2002/142

20 December 2002

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, meeting in Budapest on 17-18 December 2002, first with Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) and then Mr Einarsson (Sweden, UEL) in the Chair,

As regards:

– *A European Migration Observatory*: heard a presentation of a motion for a recommendation prepared by Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC);

– *Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe*: heard a report by Mr Branger (France, EPP), Chairman of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on the Conference in Tirana; heard a presentation and held an exchange of views with Mr Kilian Kleinschmidt, Executive Secretary, Steering Committee on Refugee Matters - Regional Return Initiative, on the achievements of the Stability Pact regarding displaced persons and on the new Migration, Asylum, Refugees and Regional Initiative; and endorsed the updated report on Population displacement in South-Eastern Europe: trends, problems, solutions (Doc. 9519 rev.) (Rapporteur: Mrs Zwerver, Netherlands, SOC);

– *Common policy on migration and asylum* (Rapporteur: Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, LDR): took note of the draft report in the absence of the Rapporteur;

– *The situation of young migrants in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo, Spain, SOC): approved a draft report and adopted a draft recommendation as amended; instructed its Chairman to ask the President of the Assembly to include a debate on this report during the Assembly January part-session replacing the report on Common policy on migration and asylum (Rapporteur: Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, LDR);

– *Hearing on the situation of young refugees*: heard presentations by Mr Gábor BRÓDI, Under-State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Hungary and Mr Jean-François DURIEUX, Deputy Director, Bureau for Europe, UNHCR /Geneva; listened to experiences of asylum presented by six young refugees and one appointed guardian followed by an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Françoise LAURITZEN, UNHCR Representative in Hungary, members of the Programming Committee of the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation, Mr Sergio KRISTENSEN, Save the Children International Alliance, and Hungarian NGOs; visited the reception centre of Bicske and heard presentations and statements by Ms Katalin SZILI, Speaker of the National Assembly, Hungary, Mr Tibor PAL, State Secretary, Ministry of the Interior, Hungary, Mr Lajos HORVÁTH, Director of the Centre, and Ms Kate HALVORSEN, Senior Regional Policy Advisor, UNHCR; and held talks with residents;

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cc. Secretary General 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
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General
Director of Communication and Research
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- *Activities of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) 1998-2002* (Rapporteur: Mr Wilkinson, United Kingdom, EDG): took note of an outline for a report in the absence of the Rapporteur, and heard a presentation and held an exchange of views with Mr Schatzer, Director, External Relations Department, IOM;
- *Humanitarian situation of refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East* (Rapporteur: Mr Akselsen, Norway, SOC): heard oral reports by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (18-22 November 2002) and by Mr Agramunt (Spain, EPP) and Mr Akselsen (Norway, SOC) on the Hearing on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Europe (Sub-Committee on Refugees, Budapest, 16 December 2002); and agreed to include the problem of the legal status of Palestinian refugees and stateless persons in Europe in this report in line with the motion on this issue (Doc. 9588) and agreed to change the title of the report to read as follows: "The situation of Palestinian refugees";
- *Links between Europeans living abroad and their countries of origin* (Rapporteur: Mrs Bušić, Croatia, EPP): considered an outline for a report, and agreed to organise a Hearing on the subject focussing on Central and Eastern Europe;
- *The Hague Declaration on the future of refugee and migration policy*: heard an oral report by Mrs Bušić (Croatia, EPP) on the Launch of the Declaration of The Hague on the future of refugee and migration policy (The Hague, 22 November 2002) and a presentation by Dr Frans Bouwen, Secretary-Coordinator of the Society for International Development/Netherlands Chapter – Project on the Future of Asylum and Migration (SID), and held an exchange of views;
- *Programming Committee of the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation*: heard a presentation and held an exchange of views with Mr Luís Pinto, Vice-Chairperson of the Programming Committee of the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation;
- *Receiving conditions and capacities in European seaports for asylum seekers* (Rapporteur: Mr Danieli, Italy, LDR): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to undertake fact-finding missions to Greece and Turkey, and instructed him to include in his report considerations on the consequences of the closing of the Sangatte reception centre;
- *Committee's activities and draft work programme for 2003*: took note of the draft work programme for 2003;
- *Committee's mandate and name*: heard a statement by the Chairman and held an exchange of views, and instructed the Secretariat to consult Committee members on a possible modification of the name of the Committee;
- *Representation of the Committee at various events*: heard reports on:
 - Regional Round Table on "Labour migration in Europe: an alternative to irregular migration?" Sofia, 24-25 October 2002: Mr Branger (France, EPP);
 - 6th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Integration and Community Relations, Strasbourg, 28-29 October 2002: Mr Kirilov (Bulgaria, SOC);
 - Symposium on youth policy responses to everyday violence: "Learning from Violence", Budapest, 28-30 October 2002: Mr Kvakkestad (Norway, EDG);
 - Seminar on the new patterns of illegal migration in Europe and the problems faced by migrants, Strasbourg, 12-13 November 2002: Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, EDG);
 - Colloquy on Migration connected with trafficking in women and prostitution, The Hague, 14-15 November 2002: Mrs Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP);
 - 4th meeting of the European Population Committee (CAHP), Strasbourg, (26) 27-29 November 2002: Mrs Lörcher (Germany, SOC), and Mrs Bušić (Croatia, EPP);
 - 4th meeting of the Committee of experts on the implementation of the migration management strategy (MG-FL), Strasbourg, 10-11 December 2002: Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, EDG);

- *Other business:* took note of the planned visit to Chechnya (20-25 January 2003) of Lord Judd (United Kingdom, SDOC), Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee, Mr Bindig (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur for opinion of the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee, and Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC, Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography);
- *Dates and places of the next meetings:*
 - Strasbourg, during the first part of the 2003 session (27-31 January 2003)
 - Geneva, 27-28 February 2003 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau).

Halvor LERVIK, Agnieszka NACHILO, Sonia SIRTORI-MILNER