

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

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**Synopsis No. 2003/26**

4 March 2003

**The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography**, meeting in Geneva on 27-28 February 2003, first with Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) and then Mr Einarsson (Sweden, UEL) in the Chair,

as regards:

- *Activities of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) 1998-2002* (Rapporteur: Mr Wilkinson, United Kingdom, EDG): held an exchange of views with Mr Brunson McKinley, Director General, and other representatives of this organisation on its work programme and priorities in 2003;
- *Rights of migrants*: organised a Round Table with representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and decided to examine this issue further;
- *Persons unaccounted for as a result of armed conflicts or internal violence*: held an exchange of views with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- *Migration from West Africa to Europe*: held a hearing with the participation of Mrs Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General of IOM, Mrs Angèle Dikongwe-Atanjana, UNHCR, and Mr Ali Bensaâd, journalist and Professor at the University of Aix-Marseille I;
- *The situation of Palestinian refugees* (Rapporteur: Mr Akselsen, Norway, SOC): considered a preliminary draft report and held an exchange of views with Mr René C. Aquarone, Head of Liaison, Office in Geneva, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA);
- *Policies for the integration of immigrants in Council of Europe member States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Zwerver, Netherlands, SOC): considered a memorandum;

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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 and Research  
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- *Migrants in irregular employment in the agricultural sector of southern European countries* (Rapporteur: Mrs de Zulueta, Italy, SOC): considered a memorandum;
- *Internal displacement in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mrs Stoitsits, Austria, SOC): in the absence of the Rapporteur, took note of a memorandum;
- *The situation in the Chechen Republic* (Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the follow up to Order No. 584 (2003) on the evaluation of the prospects for a political solution of the conflict in the Chechen Republic, held an exchange of views, and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a Note on the possible organisation of a Conference on humanitarian aid and assistance;
- *Situation of Roma displaced population in Serbia and Montenegro*: heard a report by Mrs Zwerver and Mr Cilevičs on the conclusions of the fact finding visit to Serbia and Montenegro (16-22 February 2003), held an exchange of views and agreed to examine the question of forced returns of Roma displaced population from the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia including Kosovo, to Serbia and Montenegro;
- *Migration management in the Mediterranean region*: authorised its Sub-Committee on Migration to participate in the Council of Europe conference to be held in Valetta (Malta) on 10-11 April 2003 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);
- *Priorities and work programme*: held an exchange of views;
- *Representation of the Committee at various events*:
  - a. *heard the following reports*:
    - Seminar on issues relating to travellers and 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Specialist Group on Roma/Gypsies (MG-S-ROM), Dublin, 14-16 October 2002: Mr Wray, United Kingdom, SOC;
    - Citizens' Forum "NGOs – key players in democratic governance", Strasbourg, 4-5 November 2002: Mr Popa, Romania, SOC;
    - 2002 [International Parliamentarians' Conference on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, Ottawa, 21-22 November 2002](#) (Ottawa Commitment): Mrs Zwerver, Netherlands, SOC;
    - 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of experts on the legal status and other rights of immigrants (MG-ST), Strasbourg, 9-10 December 2002: Mrs Zwerver, Netherlands, SOC;
  - b. *appointed the following representatives*:
    - MM. Popa (Romania, SOC) and Tkáč (Slovakia, EDG) for the Meeting of the Specialist Group on Roma / Gypsies (MG-S-ROM), Strasbourg, 24-25 March 2003;
    - Mrs Bušić (Croatia, EPP) and Mr Kirilov (Bulgaria, SOC) for the Meeting of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG), Strasbourg, 25-27 March 2003;
    - MM. Popa (Romania, SOC) and Tkáč (Slovakia, EDG) for the Meeting of the Committee of experts on the implementation of the migration management strategy (MG-FL), Strasbourg, 13-14 May 2003;
    - Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) for the Conference on Bridging cultural gaps organised by the Alfred Herrhausen Society for International Dialogue, Frankfurt am Main, 17-18 March 2003;
- *Replies from the Committee of Ministers*: took note of the following replies:
  - Recommendation 1499 (2001) on the humanitarian situation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Chechnya (Doc. 9634);
  - Recommendation 1504 (2001) on non-expulsion of long-term immigrants (Doc. 9633);
  - Recommendation 1569 (2002) on the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Doc. 9647);
  - Recommendation 1570 (2002) on the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (Doc. 9693);

- *The possible conflict in Iraq*: authorised its Chairman to react on its behalf, in case of any humanitarian disaster resulting from a possible conflict by asking for an urgent debate during the second 2003 part session of the Parliamentary Assembly, if necessary;
- *Dates and places of the next meetings*: agreed to hold the following meetings:
  - Strasbourg, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the session 2003 (31.3-4.4.2003)
  - Valetta, 10-11 April 2003: Sub-Committee on Migration (*subject to authorisation by the Bureau*)
  - Budapest, 5-6 May 2003 (*subject to authorisation by the Bureau*)
  - Strasbourg, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the session 2003 (23-27.6.2003).

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