

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



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

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Synopsis No. 2004/59

30 April 2004

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, meeting in Strasbourg on 26, 27 and 28 April 2004, with Mr Wilkinson (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair:

As regards:

- *New Dutch policy on asylum seekers (request under urgent procedure debate):*
 - appointed Mrs Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD) as rapporteur (subject to the decision by the Assembly to accept the request);
 - authorised its Chairman to speak in the Assembly on behalf of the Committee against the application of an urgent procedure ;
 - gave its support to the initiative of its Chairman to present a motion on the same issue to be treated under ordinary procedure;
 - confirmed the appointment of Mrs Zapfl-Helbling as rapporteur if this motion is referred to the Committee for report and, in this context, authorised her to conduct a fact-finding mission to the Netherlands.
- *A European migration observatory/agency* (Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC): took note that no amendments were tabled to the report;
- *Human mobility and right to family reunion* (Rapporteur: Mrs Zapfl-Helbling, Switzerland, EPP/CD): considered an amendment proposed by the Rapporteur and authorised her to table it on behalf of the Committee;
- *Population trends in Europe and their sensitivity to policy measures* (Rapporteur: Mr Brunhart, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD): approved a revised draft report and adopted a draft recommendation;
- *Protection and assistance for separated children seeking asylum*: appointed Mr Wray (United Kingdom, SOC) Rapporteur in replacement of Mrs Torrado (Spain, SOC);
- *Integration difficulties of immigrants as a potential threat to the fundamental values of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Branger, France, EPP/CD): considered a memorandum;
- *Asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Turkey* (Rapporteur: Mr Aliyev, Azerbaijan, SOC): considered a revised memorandum;
- *Accelerated asylum procedures in Council of Europe member States* (Rapporteur: Mr Agramunt Font de Mora, Spain, EPP/CD): considered a memorandum;

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

- *The plight of the deported Meshketian population* (Rapporteur: Mrs Vermot-Mangold, Switzerland, SOC): agreed to ask the Bureau to extend the validity of the reference to the Committee until the end of 2004;
- *The follow-up to Recommendation 1570 (2002) on the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia*: decided to ask the Bureau to be seized for report;
- *Establishment of the Centre for European Nations' Remembrance under the auspices of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Einarsson, Sweden, UEL): considered a revised memorandum and held an exchange of views with:
 - Prof. Włodzimierz BORODZIEJ, University of Warsaw, Poland
 - Prof. Stefan TROEBST, University of Leipzig, Germany
- *Priorities and work programme 2004*: took note of the work programme;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*:
 - *Working migration from the countries of Eastern and Central Europe: present state and perspectives*: Ms Bilozir (Ukraine, NR)
 - *Human rights of irregular migrants*: Mr van Thijn (Netherlands, SOC)
- *4th Council Meeting of the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development* (Ankara, 1-4 April 2004): heard a statement by Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, EDG);
- *Appointment of representatives*: appointed:
 - 47th meeting of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG) (Strasbourg, 12-14 May 2004): Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) and Mr Kvakkestad (Norway, EDG);
 - European Committee on Population (CAHP) (Strasbourg, 9-11 June 2004): Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, EDG) and Mr Popa (Romania, SOC);
 - The Nansen Refugee Award Celebration (Barcelona, 20 June 2004): Mrs Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC);
 - 3rd European Conference on Nationality – Nationality and the Child (Strasbourg, 11-12 October 2004): Ms Bousakla (Belgium, SOC).
- *Modification in sub-committees*:
 - *Sub-Committee on Migration*: appointed Mr Agramunt Font de Mora (Spain, EPP/CD) member to replace Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo;
 - *Sub-Committee on Refugees*: appointed Mr Puche (Spain, EPP/CD) member to replace Mr Agramunt, and Mr Wray (United Kingdom, SOC) alternate to Lord Judd;
 - *Sub-Committee on Population*: appointed Mr Branger (France, EPP/CD), Mr Foulkes (United Kingdom, SOC) and Ms Shakhhtakhtinskaya (Azerbaijan, EDG) members; and Mr van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD) alternate to Ms Bousakla and Mr Wray (United Kingdom, SOC) alternate to Mr Etherington;
 - *ad hoc Sub-Committee on the Humanitarian Situation of Displaced Persons in Chechnya*, Included Mr Iwiński, Rapporteur (Poland, SOC) among its members.
- *Replies from the Committee of Ministers*: took note of the replies to the following Recommendations:
 - Recommendation 1618 (2003) – Migrants in irregular employment in the agricultural sector of southern European countries;
 - Recommendation 1619 (2003) – Rights of elderly migrants;
 - Recommendation 1625 (2003) – Policies for the integration of immigrants in Council of Europe member states.

- *Dates and places of the next meetings:* decided to hold its meeting as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd Part-Session 2004 (21-25 June 2004)
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th Part-Session 2004 (4-8 October 2004)
 - Geneva, 4-5 November 2004 (*to be confirmed and subject to authorisation by the Bureau*)

The ad hoc Sub-Committee on the Humanitarian Situation of Displaced Persons in Chechnya, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 April 2004 with Mrs Hoffmann (Germany, SOC) in the Chair:

- *Round Table on reconstruction, humanitarian aid and assistance to displaced persons in and from Chechnya:* heard a statement by the Chairperson on her meeting with Mr Kosachev, Chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Delegation; and held an exchange of views on the future work of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee;
- *Next meetings:* left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on Refugees, meeting in Strasbourg on 29 April 2004 with Mrs Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

- *Election of the Vice-Chair:* decided to postpone the election to the next meeting;
- *The follow-up to Recommendation 1570 (2002) on the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia:* held an exchange of views with:
 - the parliamentary delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan
 - Mrs Inkeri AARNIO-LWOFF, Adviser, Directorate General of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe
 - Mr Jean-Claude CONCOLATO, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
 - Mr Süleyman BARBAKADZE, Chairman of the International Meskehti Turks Association
 - Prof. Muhammed FAHRATOV, Deputy Chairman of the International Meskehti Turks Association
- *Next meetings:* left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Halvor Lervik, Agnieszka Nachilo, Sonia Sirtori-Milner, Olga Kostenko