

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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

Synopsis AS/MIG/2008/CB/04

22 May 2008

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, meeting in Paris, on 19 and 20 May 2008, with Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair

as regards:

– **Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe Member States** (*Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): organised a hearing on the case of France, with the participation of

- Mr Pierre HENRY, Director General, *France terre d'Asile*
- Mr Benoît MESLIN, Secretary General, OFPRA (*Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides*)
- Mrs Alexandra OURAEFF, *Forum réfugiés*
- Mr Gérard SADIK, Committee on Asylum, CIMADE (*Comité intermouvements auprès des évacués*)

– **State of democracy in Europe - measures to improve the democratic participation of migrants** (*Rapporteur: Mr Greenway, United Kingdom, EDG*): approved a draft report, adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation as amended, held an exchange of views on the Conference on Democracy in Europe which will take place in Strasbourg, on 24 June 2008 and asked its members who wish to take part in the event to inform the secretariat;

– **Europe's "boat-people", mixed migration flows by sea into Southern Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Østergaard, Denmark, ALDE*): approved a draft report, adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation as amended and decided to issue a press release;

– **Housing, land and property considerations as part of durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dendias, Greece, EPP/CD*): considered an outline for the report, heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to make a fact-finding visit to Georgia and to Nagorno Karabakh, subject to the availability of funds;

– **Migration in Europe: a constant challenge** (*Rapporteur: Mr Preda, Romania, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with

- Mr Florian FORSTER, Director, IOM Office, Paris
- Mr Günther SCHESKE, UNHCR Representative to the European institutions

– **Detention of asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Mendonça, Portugal, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and decided to request its Chair to ask the Bureau to extend the validity of the reference to the end 2009;

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

- **Representation of the Committee at various events:**
 - *55th Meeting of the European Committee on Migration (Strasbourg, 5-7 May 2008):* heard a statement by Mr Rossi (San Marino, UEL)
- **The problem of environmental refugees** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Acketoft, Sweden, ALDE*): organised a hearing, with the participation of
 - Mr Ivan N. IVANOV (Bulgaria, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs
 - Ms Alina NARUSOVA, Migration Policy Officer, International Dialogue on Migration Division, Migration Policy, Research and Communication Department, IOM
 - Ms Paola PACE, Research Officer, International Migration Law and Legal Affairs Department, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 - Mr Günther SCHESKE, UNHCR Representative to the European institutions
 - Mrs Guadelupe de SOUSA, Liaison Officer, OCHA
 - Mrs Koko WARNER, Head of Section, Social Vulnerability and Environmental Migration, United Nations University, Institute of Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
 - Mr Harry WIJNBERG, Living Space for Environmental Refugees (LiSER)
- **Restrictions on international humanitarian aid by Myanmar's and China's authorities:** decided to issue a press release relating natural disasters, climate change, humanitarian aid and displacement;
- **Visit of the Museum of Immigration of Paris:** heard a presentation of the Museum by Mrs Patricia SITRUCK, Director, followed by a visit;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Plenary Committee:

- Strasbourg, during the 3rd part of the Session 2008 (23-27 June 2008)
- Strasbourg, during the 4th part of the Session 2008 (29 September – 3 October 2008)
- Geneva, Switzerland (25-26 November 2008): Seminar on
 - (i) Europe's population decline and migration
 - (ii) Human Rights of IDPs
 - (iii) Rights of all migrant workers and their families
 (*subject to the authorisation by the Bureau*)
- Paris, 11 December 2008 (*to be confirmed*)

Sub-Committee on Migration:

- Strasbourg, during the 3rd part of the Session 2008 (23-27 June 2008)
- Kyiv, 4-5 September 2008: participation in the 8th Ministerial Conference on Migration (*subject to the authorisation by the Bureau*)

Halvor Lervik, Mark Neville, Dana Karanjac, Ivi Odrats