

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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

Synopsis AS/MIG/2008/CB/05

30 June 2008

**The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population**, meeting in Strasbourg, on 24, 25 and 26 June 2008, with Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

• **ON 24 JUNE 2008, AT 8.30 AM**

– held an **exchange of views** with members of the *Tunisian Parliament*;

as regards:

– **Activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE*): took position on an amendment proposed by the Rapporteur, on behalf of the Committee;

– **Conference on specific challenges facing European democracies – the case of diversity and migration and measures to improve the democratic participation of migrants (Strasbourg, 24 June 2008, from 5.00 to 8.00 pm)**: held an exchange of views on the programme of the conference and appointed the following members to take part: Mrs Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE), Mr Etherington (United Kingdom, SOC), Mr Greenway (United Kingdom, EDG), Mr Henderson (United Kingdom, SOC), Mr Keskin (Germany, UEL), Mrs Sburny (Austria, SOC);

– **Housing, land and property considerations as part of durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dendias, Greece, EPP/CD*): considered a memorandum, heard a statement by the Rapporteur and decided to change the title to “Solving property issue of refugees and displaced persons”;

– **Readmission agreements: a mechanism for returning irregular migrants** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Strik, Netherlands, SOC*): considered an outline for the report, heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised her to visit the European institutions in Brussels in October 2008 (subject to the availability of funds);

– **Meeting of the plenary Committee in Geneva (25-26 November 2008)**: held an exchange of views with Mrs Christine McCafferty (United Kingdom, SOC), Chair of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, on the three seminars to be held in Geneva and heard a statement by Mrs Tina Nebe, from the Office of the United Nations Population Fund in Geneva;

• **ON 25 JUNE 2008, AT 2.00 PM**

– held an **exchange of views** with members of the *Algerian Parliament and the South-African Parliament*

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

as regards:

– **State of democracy in Europe - measures to improve the democratic participation of migrants** (*Rapporteur: Mr Greenway, United Kingdom, EDG*): took position on the amendments to the draft Resolution and to the draft Recommendation;

– **The problem of environmental refugees** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Ackefors (Sweden, ALDE)*): heard a short statement by the Rapporteur and decided to ask its Chair to write to the Bureau requesting that the motion on the *Challenges posed by climate change* (reporting Committee: Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs) be referred to the Committee for opinion;

• **ON 26 JUNE 2008, AT 2.00 PM, as regards:**

– **Activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE*):

- took note that one amendment has been tabled (on behalf of the Committee);
- held an exchange of views with Mr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the participation of members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- decided to ask its Chair to write to the Bureau requesting that the motion on *Ban of cluster munitions* (reporting Committee: Political Affairs Committee) be referred to the Committee for opinion;

– **Migration in Europe: a constant challenge** (*Rapporteur: Mr Preda, Romania, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with Mr Hallvard Gorseth, Head of the Division on Gender and Anti-Trafficking Equality, Council of Europe;

– **Work programme:**

➤ **Appointment of rapporteurs:**

- *European expatriates: relations to their countries of origin*: appointed Mrs Bilozir (Ukraine, EPP/CD);
- *The demographic future of Europe and migration*: appointed Mrs Hajiyeva (Azerbaijan, EPP/CD);
- *The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD) and the global economy 2008 (for opinion)*: appointed Mr Zernovski (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, ALDE);

➤ **Representation of the Committee at various events:**

Statements:

- *Meeting on “Raising the voices of young refugees: a step forward to organise ourselves”, organised by the European Youth Centre of Budapest (Budapest, 11-15 February 2008)*: heard a statement by Mr Branger (France, EPP/CD)
- *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee* which took part in the Euro-Mediterranean meetings on migration, co-development and intercultural dialogue, organised in cooperation with the North-South Centre (Tanger (Morocco), 25-26 April 2008): heard a statement by Mrs Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE), Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee;
- *Intergovernmental seminar on “The linguistic integration of adult migrants” (Strasbourg, 26-27 June 2008)*: heard a statement by Mrs Strik (Netherlands, SOC)

Appointments:

- *Expert Workshop on “EU’s external maritime borders: guidelines or restrictions” (Brussels, 2 July 2008)*: appointed Mr Ducarme (Belgium, ALDE), at no cost to the Assembly;
- *Meeting on Europe and Migration, organised by the French National Assembly and the European Parliament (Brussels, 10-11 September 2008)*: appointed its Chairperson, subject to the availability of funds;
- *Meeting of the Presidents of Justice and Home Affairs Committees on the themes of European coordination on immigration and strengthening judicial cooperation in the European Union (Paris, 15 September 2008)*: appointed its Chairperson, subject to the availability of funds;

- **Sub-committees:**
  - **Composition of the Sub-committees:**
    - *Sub-Committee on Population*: appointed Mr Agius (Malta, EPP/CD) member
    - *Sub-Committee on Migration*: decided to add Mr Agius on the waiting list;
  - **Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Migration in Kyiv (4-5 September 2008)**: decided to open the meeting to all members on the waiting list;
- **Conclusions of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Strasbourg, 22-23 May 2008)**: took note of the conclusions of the Conference;
- **Next meetings**: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

*Plenary Committee:*

- Strasbourg, during the 4<sup>th</sup> part of the Session 2008 (29 September – 3 October 2008)
- Geneva, Switzerland (25-26 November 2008): Seminars on
  - (i) Europe's population decline and migration
  - (ii) Human Rights of IDPs
  - (iii) Rights of all migrant workers and their families
- Paris, 11 December 2008 (*to be confirmed*).

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**The Sub-Committee on Refugees**, meeting in Strasbourg, on 23 June 2008, with Mr Hagberg (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair,

*as regards:*

- **World Refugee Day 20 June: Children refugees:**
  - attended the opening of the UNHCR Exhibition with drawings of children refugees from camp Goz-Beida (Chad) and Columbia;
  - held an exchange of views with Mrs Maud DE BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, with the participation of school children from two secondary schools in Alsace who took part in the exhibition project : collège Hans Arp (Elsau, Strasbourg) and collège François Truffaut (Hautepierre, Strasbourg) (Moderator: Mr Schneider, France, EPP/CD);
- **Next meeting**: left it to its Chair to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

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**The Sub-Committee on Migration**, meeting in Strasbourg, on 24 June 2008, with Mr Dendias (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

*as regards:*

- **Participation of the Sub-Committee in the 8<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of European Ministers responsible for Migration Affairs and European Parliamentary Forum on Economic Migration, Social Cohesion and Development (Kyiv, 4-5 September 2008)**: held an exchange of views with Mr Simon Tonelli, Head of the Migration Division, Directorate General of Social Cohesion;
- **Next meeting**: decided to hold its next meeting in Kyiv (Ukraine) on 4-5 September 2008.

Halvor Lervik, Mark Neville, Dana Karanjac, Ivi Odrats