

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee) meeting in Paris on 14 October 2002, under the chairmanship of Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP/CD),

As regards:

- *Elections in Palestine:*
 - took note of the Bureau's decision to create an *ad hoc* committee to observe the parliamentary elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council and for the Palestinian Authority scheduled to take place on the 20 January 2003, and encouraged its members to apply for membership of the above-mentioned *ad hoc* committee;
 - was informed by the Secretariat of activities envisaged in this context by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - expressed its opinion that the observation of the elections in Palestine must be organised in co-operation with the European Union, especially with the European Parliament, and, to this end, a co-ordination meeting must be organised as soon as possible;
 - expressed its wish that a report on the elections in Palestine or, if need be, on the reasons for postponing these elections, should be put on the agenda of the January 2003 part-session of the Assembly;
- *Situation in the Middle East (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG):* held an exchange of views on the situation in the region and on the priorities of its future action, and decided to concentrate its work, in co-ordination, if appropriate, with other committees of the Assembly and the Council of Europe bodies, on the following themes:
 - respect for human rights in the prisons in Israel and in the Territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority;
 - revision of Israeli and Palestinian school textbooks with a view to censoring incitations to hatred and violence;
 - promotion of co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians at local authority level;
- *Next meeting:* left the convocation of its next meeting to its Chairman's discretion.

Pavel Chevtchenko

cc Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Office of the Secretary of the Parliamentary 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
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research
Permanent representations to the Council of Europe