

# 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*

### **Synopsis n° 2002 / 140**

16 December 2002

The **Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Paris on 10 December 2002 with Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning the visit of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and himself to Moscow from 26 to 28 November 2002, in particular their meeting with the President of the Russian Federation, Mr Vladimir Putin;

#### *As regards:*

- *Contribution of the Council of Europe to the constitution-making process of the European Union (Rapporteur: Mr Pangalos, Greece, SOC):* considered a preliminary draft Resolution;

- *Conflict in the Chechen Republic (Rapporteur: Lord Judd, United Kingdom, SOC):* heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views on the preparation of a draft report for the January 2003 part-session of the Assembly; invited the Rapporteur to submit elements for a draft resolution at its next meeting and authorised him to visit Moscow and the Northern Caucasus in January 2003;

- *Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters:* considered a memorandum presented by Mr Clerfayt (Belgium, LDR), Chairperson of the Council on Democratic Elections; took note that the President of the Assembly will transmit the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, drafted by the Venice Commission at the Assembly's request, to the national parliaments for its implementation; and decided to introduce a request for a debate under urgent procedure on this issue during the January 2003 part-session of the Assembly;

- *Preferential treatment of national minorities by their kin-state: case of the Hungarian Status Law of 19 June 2001 (Rapporteur for Opinion: Mr Toshev, Bulgaria, EPP):* heard a statement by the Rapporteur following his visit to Hungary; and held an exchange of views on the subject;

- *Situation in Georgia (Rapporteur: Mrs Lörcher, Germany, SOC):* decided to hold an exchange of views on this item at its next meeting;

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cc Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Director General and staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly  
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Special Guests and Observers to the Assembly  
Directors General  
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General  
Director of Communication and Research  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- *Situation in the Middle East (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG)*: held an exchange of views on the situation in prisons in Israel and the Territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority with the following participants:

Mr Yuri SHTERN, member of the Israeli Knesset  
Mr Ziad ABU ZAYYAD, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council  
Mr Yossi BECK, Head of Treatment and Rehabilitation, Israel Prison Authority;  
Mr Noam LUBELL, Project Director, Prisoners and Detainees, Physicians for Human Rights - Israel;  
Mrs Tamar PELLEG, Lawyer, Tel Aviv;  
Mr Ole Vedel RASMUSSEN, Danish member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the Council of Europe;  
Mrs Donatella ROVERA, Middle East Programme, Amnesty International, London;  
Dr Said ZEEDANI, Director General, Palestinian Independent Commission of Citizen's Rights;

- heard a statement by the Rapporteur concerning the elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council and the presidential elections for the Palestinian Authority scheduled for early 2003;

- *Sub-Committees :*

- . took note of a written statement by Mr Wielowieyski (Poland, EPP), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Strengthening of Democratic Institutions, concerning the NGO Forum in Strasbourg on 4 and 5 November 2002;

- . decided to hold an exchange of views at its next meeting on the visit to the United Nations by the Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries (New York, 19-22 November 2002);

- . heard a statement by Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Belarus, concerning the first meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Paris on the same day;

- *Participation of members of the Committee in various events:*

- . heard a statement by Lord Judd (United Kingdom, SOC) on his participation in the General Assembly debate on Chechnya of the International Helsinki Federation in The Hague on 15 November 2002;

- *Replies by the Committee of Ministers to the texts adopted by the Assembly presented by the Political Affairs Committee*: took note of the replies to Recommendation 1579 (2002) on the enlargement of the European Union and the Kaliningrad Region as well as to Recommendations 1498 (2001) and 1499 (2001) on the situation in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation;

- *Other business:*

- approved a statement by the Chairperson on the occasion of the Copenhagen Council of the European Union on 12 and 13 December 2002;

- was informed on the results of the 111th session of the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg on 7 November 2002;

- *Next meetings:*

decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

- Paris, 15 January 2003;
  - Strasbourg, January 2003 part-session (27-31 January 2003);
  - Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 6-7 March 2003, on the occasion of a colloquy co-organised with the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina (*subject to the Bureau's authorisation*).

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The **Sub-Committee on Belarus**, meeting in Paris on 10 December 2002, first with Mr Davis (United Kingdom, SOC) as the oldest member present in the Chair, and then Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR),

- elected Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR) as its Chairperson and decided to postpone the election of its Vice-Chairperson to the next meeting;
- heard a statement by Mr Behrendt (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur on the situation in Belarus, and invited him to prepare a memorandum for the next meeting;
- held an exchange of views on its future work;
- decided to hold its next meeting on the occasion of the meeting of the Political Affairs Committee in Paris on 15 January 2003.

Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow, Catherine Entzminger, Alexandra Alléon