

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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17 January 2003

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 15 January 2003 with Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR) in the Chair,

As regards:

- *Contribution of the Council of Europe to the constitution-making process of the European Union (Rapporteur: Mr Pangalos, Greece, SOC):* adopted a preliminary draft Resolution;
- *Conflict in the Chechen Republic (Rapporteur: Lord Judd, United Kingdom, SOC):* held an exchange of views based on a memorandum by the Rapporteur and confirmed its decision to present, following the visit of the Rapporteur to Moscow and the North Caucasus (19 to 24 January 2003), a report at the January 2003 part-session of the Assembly;
- *Code of good practice in electoral matters:* took note of the Bureau's decision to propose to the Assembly to hold an urgent debate on this matter during the January 2003 part-session of the Assembly, and, subject to the Assembly's decision, adopted a preliminary draft Resolution and a preliminary draft Recommendation prepared by Mr Clerfayt (Belgium, LDR), Chairman of the Council for Democratic Elections;
- *Situation in Georgia:* held an exchange of views based on a statement by Mrs Lörcher (Germany, SOC), Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Bureau on the situation in Georgia, on the fact-finding mission to Moscow, Tbilisi and the Pankisi Valley (28 October – 2 November 2002);
- *Relations with the United Nations (Rapporteur: Mrs Severinsen, Denmark, LDR):* held an exchange of views based on a memorandum prepared by the Rapporteur following the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries in New York (19 to 22 November 2002) ;
- *Situation in Cyprus (Rapporteur: Mr Eörsi, Hungary, LDR):* heard a statement by the Rapporteur, authorised him to visit Cyprus after the presidential elections (16 February 2003), and took note of the written communication by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on his official visit to Cyprus (6 to 9 January 2003);

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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

- took note of the decision of the Bureau to propose to the Assembly to hold an urgent debate on *the amendments to the Constitution of Liechtenstein proposed by the Princely House of Liechtenstein* and to refer the matter to the Political Affairs Committee for report, and appointed Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP/CD) rapporteur;
- took note of a statement by Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, LDR) on the modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly by Resolution 1284 (2002) on membership of the immediate past Parliamentary Assembly President and the chairpersons of political groups in the Political Affairs Committee;
- authorised Mr Davis, Rapporteur on the *Conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan*, to carry out a visit to the region after the elections in Armenia to be held in February 2003, and to meet with the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group;
- *Dates and places of next meetings:*
 - o was informed of the reservations expressed by the Bureau about authorising the organisation of a colloquy in Sarajevo before the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina had appointed a delegation to the Assembly, and decided to postpone this colloquy to a later date;
 - o accepted, subject to the Bureau's authorisation, the invitation from the Greek delegation to meet in Athens, on 9 and 10 June 2003;
 - o decided to hold its next meeting as follows:
 - Strasbourg, 27 - 31 January 2003 (First part-session 2003);
 - Paris, 5 March 2003;
 - Strasbourg, 31 March - 4 April 2003 (Second part-session 2003);
 - Berlin (Germany), 29 April 2003, on the occasion of the meeting of the Standing Committee;
 - Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 19 - 20 May 2003, on the occasion of a colloquy co-organised with the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina (*subject to the Bureau's authorisation*);
 - Athens (Greece), 9 - 10 June 2003 (*subject to the Bureau's authorisation*);
 - Strasbourg, 23 - 27 June 2003 (Third part-session 2003);

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The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Paris on 15 January 2003 with Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR) in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views based on a memorandum by Mr Behrendt (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur on the situation in Belarus;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Massie, Deputy Secretary to the Committee of Ministers, on the activities concerning Belarus carried out by the Council of Europe, and requested an estimated assessment of these activities, especially in the field of the media;
- considered it to be important that the Assembly should participate in the observation of local elections in Belarus in March 2003, and asked its Chairman to take the necessary steps to this effect;
- decided to hold its next meeting during the First part-session 2003 (27 - 31 January 2003), in the presence of the delegation of the Parliament of Belarus and representatives of the opposition which is not represented in Parliament.

Bariş Perin, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow, Alexandra Alléon