

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° 2003 / 052

8 April 2003

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 1 and 3 April 2003 with Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR), then Mr Rogozin (Russia, EDG) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by Mr Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, followed by an exchange of views;

As regards:

- *Request for a debate under urgent procedure on Europe and the crises in Iraq*: appointed Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) rapporteur, adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation on *Europe and the war in Iraq* and prepared the urgent procedure debate in the Assembly of the 3 April 2003 by examining the amendments which had been tabled;

- *Conflict in the Chechen Republic*: held an exchange of views on the situation in the Chechen Republic after the referendum which was held on 23 March 2003 and the follow-up to be given to Order 584 (2003), took note of Lord Judd's resignation as rapporteur, and decided to appoint a new rapporteur at its next meeting;

- *Request for Council of Europe membership: Principality of Monaco (Rapporteur: Mr Slutsky, Russia, SOC)*: heard an oral statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to visit the country in view of presenting a new draft report to the Committee in June 2003;

- *Appointment of representatives:*

- *Seminar on the abolition of the death penalty (Minsk, Belarus, 23 April 2003)*: Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR), *subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly*;

- *Dates and places of next meetings:*

- *Berlin (Germany), 29 April 2003;*
- *Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 19 - 20 May 2003, on the occasion of a colloquy co-organised with the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina;*
- *Athens (Greece), 9 - 10 June 2003;*
- *Strasbourg, 23 - 27 June 2003 (3rd part-session 2003).*

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

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 1 April 2003 with Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG) on the *situation in the Middle East* followed by an exchange of views with the participation of Mrs BLUMENTHAL and Mr RAMON and Mr SHALGI, deputies of the Knesset, and Mr ABU-ZAYYAD, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
- left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

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The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 2 April 2003 with Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR) in the Chair:

- elected Mr Blankenborg (Norway, SOC) vice-chair;
- held an exchange of views on *the situation in Belarus* with Mr KOUCHINSKI, Mr MOROZOV and Mr NOVOSIAD, members of the National Assembly of Belarus, Mr ROMANCHUK, member of the United Civil Party of Belarus;
- held an exchange of views on relations between the European Parliament and Belarus with Mr MARSET CAMPOS, member of the European Parliament and Rapporteur on Belarus;
- heard a statement by Mr POURGOURIDES, Vice-Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee to clarify the circumstances of disappearances for allegedly political reasons in Belarus of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- heard a statement on local elections in Belarus by Mr LOCATELLI, Executive Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe;
- left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

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The Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 3 April 2003 with Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, LDR) in the Chair:

- elected Mr Atkinson (United Kingdom, EDG) vice-chair;
- heard a statement by its Chair on relations with the United Nations;
- held an exchange of views on the future activities of the Sub-Committee;
 - held an exchange of views on the *situation in Kazakhstan* with the participation of Mr ABOUSSEITOV, First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Mr VAISSOV, Vice-Prosecutor General of Kazakhstan, Mr ABDILDIN, Chairman of the Senate Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security, Mr AKHMETOV, member of the Senate, Mr ABDIEV, Mr KALIOULY and Mrs KVJATKOSKY, members of the Majilis, Mr KOSSANOV, Chairman, Republican People's Party (opposition), POBERESCHSKIJ, Human Rights Activist, and Mr LAUBSCH, President GFDZ (*Gesellschaft zur Förderung von Demokratie in Zentralasien*);
- left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

Bariş Perin, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow, Catherine Entzminger, Alexandra Alléon