

Parliamentary **Assembly** **Assemblée** parlementaire



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 29 and 30 September 2003, under the chairmanship of Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR):

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

as regards:

- *The role of the United Nations in Iraq*: appointed Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC) rapporteur, and adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation for the debate under urgent procedure;

- *Threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements in Europe (Rapporteur: Mrs Ferić-Vac, Croatia, SOC)*: prepared the debate in the Assembly;

- *Request for an opinion by the Committee of Ministers on relations between the Council of Europe and non-governmental organisations (Rapporteur: Mr Elo, Finland, SOC)*: considered the amendments submitted to the draft Opinion;

- *The political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to increase democratic stability in accordance with Council of Europe standards (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC)*: was informed about the decision of the Bureau of the Assembly not to monitor the presidential elections in the Chechen Republic (5 October 2003); held an exchange of views based on an oral statement by the Rapporteur, and authorised him to visit the Chechen Republic shortly after the elections have been held;

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

- *Evolution and future development of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Rapporteur: Mr Kirilov, Bulgaria, SOC):* took note of an oral statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views, and authorised him to carry out a visit to that country;
- *Western Sahara (Rapporteur: Mr Puche, Spain, EPP-CD):* took note of an oral statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views;
- *Request for Council of Europe membership: Principality of Monaco (Rapporteur: Mr Slutsky, Russia, SOC):* was informed by its Chairman about the latest developments on this subject;
- *Appointment of Rapporteurs:*
 - *Parliamentary contribution to the implementation of the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe:* Mrs Ferić-Vac (Croatia, SOC);
 - *Greater transparency of the decisions of the Committee of Ministers:* Mr Rogozin (Russia, EDG);
 - *The persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus:* Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP-CD);
 - *Guidelines for good practices in the holding of referenda:* Mr Elo (Finland, SOC);
 - *Abolishing the last piece of the Iron Curtain in Central Europe:* Mr Eörsi (Hungary, LDR);
 - *The consequences of European Union enlargement for freedom of movement between the Council of Europe member states (for Opinion):* Mr Severin (Romania, SOC);
- *Appointment of members to the sub-committees:*
 - *Sub-Committee on the Middle East:* MM. Elo, Eörsi;
 - *Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries:* MM. Kirilov, Sasi;
 - *Sub-Committee on the Strengthening of Democratic Institutions:* Mr Elo;
- *Appointment of members to represent the Committee:*
 - *Council for Democratic Elections of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission):* to propose to the Bureau to replace Mr Clerfayt, who has left the Assembly, by Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, LDR) and asked her to attend the next meeting;
- *Authorisations:*
 - *The persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus:* authorised Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPE/CD) to visit the country in the framework of the preparation of his report (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);
 - *Meeting of the European Committee against racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2003):* Mrs Ferić-Vac (Croatia, SOC);
 - *Seminar organised by the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities (Bucharest, Romania, 27 October 2003):* authorised its Chairman to nominate a representative of the Committee;
- *Dates and places of next meetings:*
 - . Paris, 4 November 2003;
 - . Paris, 11 December 2003;
 - . Paris, 8 January 2004.

The Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 30 September 2003 with Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, LDR) in the chair:

- held a discussion on relations with the United Nations, with the participation of Ambassador Bernotas, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Council of Europe, Rapporteur of the Committee of Ministers on the United Nations and European Sub-Regional Organisations, and Mr de Jonge, Director of External Relations;
- left it to its Chair to convene the next meeting.

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The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 30 September 2003 with Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR) in the chair,

- held an exchange of views based on a memorandum presented by Mr Goris (Belgium, LDR), Rapporteur on the *Situation in Belarus*, concerning the possible reinstatement of Special Guest Status for the Parliament of Belarus to the Assembly;
- left it to its Chair to convene the next meeting.

Bariş Perin, Marja Ruotanen, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow