

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 Paris on 4 November 2003, under the chairmanship of Mr Jakič, (Slovenia, LDR):

- took note of a written communication by Mr Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

As regards:

- *Consequences of European Union enlargement for freedom of movement between Council of Europe member states (Rapporteur for Opinion: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC):* postponed the adoption of its Opinion until a future meeting, and authorised its Chairman to write to the Bureau to propose to present this report for a debate in the plenary Assembly, if possible in January 2004, instead of in the Standing Committee;

- *Request for Council of Europe membership: Principality of Monaco (Rapporteur: Mr Slutsky, Russia, SOC):* took note of the Opinion adopted by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, examined the amendments contained in this Opinion, and amended and adopted the draft Opinion of the Assembly;

- *Situation in Belarus (Rapporteur: Mr Goris, Belgium, LDR):* held an exchange of views with Mr Konoplev, Vice-President of the Chamber of Representatives of Belarus; held an exchange of views, based on a memorandum presented by the Rapporteur, concerning the appropriateness to reinstate the Special Guest status to the Parliament of Belarus, and asked him to present a list of conditions which would make this reinstatement possible;

- *Strengthening the United Nations (Rapporteur: Mrs de Zulueta, Italy, SOC):* held an exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement by the Rapporteur, took note of her proposition to present the report to the Assembly in April 2004, and authorised the Chairman to write to the Bureau to authorise a visit of the Rapporteur to the United Nations in New York in December 2003;

- *Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC):* took note of an oral statement by the Rapporteur;

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

- *Relations between Europe and the United States (Rapporteur: Mr Azzolini, Italy, EPP-CD):* heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the state of progress of the preparation of the *Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Transatlantic Dialogue*;
- *Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference of the OSCE (Rapporteur: Rt. Hon. Terry Davis, United Kingdom, SOC):* took note of an oral statement by the Rapporteur, and authorised its Chairman to write to the Bureau to ask for an extension of the validity of the reference until September 2004;
- *Presence of the Council of Europe in Northern Ireland (Rapporteur: Mr Ouzky, Czech Republic, EDG):* authorised its Chairman to write to the Bureau to ask for the extension of the validity of the reference until June 2004;
- examined its future work and established a list of reports which it will propose to present at the part-sessions of January and April 2004;
- *New references and appointments of rapporteurs:*
 - i. for report :*
 - *Need for international condemnation of totalitarianism:* Mrs Aguiar (Portugal, EPP-CD);
 - ii. for opinion:*
 - *Bio-terrorism: preparing for the worst:* Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC);
 - *Regionalisation in Europe:* Mr Magnusson (Sweden, SOC);
 - *Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote in general elections:* Lord Tomlinson (United Kingdom, SOC);
 - iii. for information:*
 - took note of Reference N° 2867 (*The reasons of the divisions of Europe, Doc. 9873*), and the intention of Mr Gross to prepare a contribution on this subject in the framework of the report on *Relations between Europe and the United States*;
- took note of the replies from the Committee of Ministers to the recommendations of the Assembly on the *Code of good practice in electoral matters* and on *Europe and the war in Iraq*;
- *Nomination of members to the sub-committees:*
 - *Sub-Committee on the Middle East:* Mr Torosyan (alternate: Mr Arsenyan);
 - *Sub-Committee on Strengthening Democratic Institutions:* Mr Torosyan (alternate: Mr Arsenyan);
- *Authorisations:*
 - *Symposium "Young people and democratic institutions: from disillusion to participation" (Strasbourg, 27-28 November 2003):* Mr Wielowieyski (Poland, EPP-CD)
 - *Visit of the parliamentary Troika to Belarus (22-25 January 2004):* to propose to the Bureau to appoint Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR) as the representative of the Assembly, and Mr Goris (Belgium, LDR) as alternate;
- *Meetings outside Strasbourg and Paris:* decided to hold in 2004:
 - a plenary meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia), *subject to authorisation by the Bureau*;
 - a meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East on the occasion of the colloquy on *Dialogue between Europe and the Middle East states* (Istanbul, Turkey), *subject to authorisation by the Bureau*;

- *Dates and places of next meetings:*

. *Paris, 11 December 2003*

. *Paris, 8 January 2004*

Bariş Perin, Marja Ruotanen, Pavel Chevtchenko