

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



## FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

### **Synopsis N° 2003 / 153**

15 December 2003

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Paris on 11 December 2003, with Mr Jakič, (Slovenia, LDR) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Schwimmer, on his recent activities, in particular, as regards the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Council of Europe Summit* and on his paper *One Europe - a Europe of partners*, followed by an exchange of views;
- held an exchange of views with the Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies, Ambassador Landman, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe, on various issues of common interest and on the priorities of the Dutch Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers in particular;
- heard a statement by the Chairman on the meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly with the chairpersons of all committees on 6 November 2003;
- decided to request an urgent debate for the January part-session 2004 on *Democracies combating terrorism*, as well as on *The Council of Europe and the European Union*, and appointed Mr Mercan (Turkey, EPP-CD) and Mr van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP-CD) as rapporteur, respectively, subject to confirmation of the urgent debates by the Assembly;

*as regards:*

- *Request for Council of Europe membership: Principality of Monaco (Rapporteur: Mr Slutsky, Russia, SOC)*: took note of a letter by the Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Mr Lintner, and modified the draft Opinion accordingly;
- *The Political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to increase democratic stability in accordance with Council of Europe standards (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC)*: held an exchange of views based on a memorandum by the Rapporteur;

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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

- *Consequences of European Union enlargement for freedom of movement between Council of Europe member states (Rapporteur for Opinion: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC):* adopted its Opinion and voted on amendments to the report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- *The persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP-CD):* held an exchange of views based on a preliminary draft report by the Rapporteur;
- *Situation in Cyprus (Rapporteur: Mr Eörsi, Hungary, LDR):* decided, at the request of Turkish Cypriot representatives, to postpone the discussion of a draft report presented by the Rapporteur until its next meeting scheduled for 8 January 2004, agreed to adopt at that meeting a draft resolution which would be amended if need be after the Rapporteur's visit to Cyprus (11 - 15 January 2004), and took note that the Bureau suggested to include the presentation of the report to the agenda of January 2004 part-session of the Assembly;
- *References and the appointment of rapporteurs:*
  - o *Greater transparency of the decisions of the Committee of Ministers [Doc. 9297, Ref. 2683]:*  
took note of the decision of Mr Rogozin (Russia, EDG) to resign as rapporteur and decided to ask the Bureau to delete this reference from the Work Programme;
  - o *Intergovernmental Conference: the future of the European Union [Doc. 9999]:*  
Took note that this topic would be covered by the urgent debate on *European Union and the Council of Europe* in the event that it would take place;
- heard statements by members of the Committee who had participated in other meetings:
  - Group of Eminent Persons, Integrated Project 1 (Florence, 21-22 November 2003):* Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC);
  - Symposium on Young people and democratic institutions: from disillusionment to participation, Directorate of Youth and Sport (Strasbourg, 27-28 November 2003):* Mr Wielowieyski (Poland, EPP-CD);
  - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, ECRI (Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2003):* Mrs Feric-Vač (Croatia, SOC);
- heard a statement by the Rapporteur of the Committee of Ministers on the United Nations and European Sub-Regional Organisations, Ambassador Åberg, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe, on his visit to the United Nations Headquarters in New York together with the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC) from 8-9 December 2003;
- took note of the follow-up by the Committee of Ministers to texts presented by the Political Affairs Committee;
- took note of the preparations of the *Inter-parliamentary Forum on Transatlantic Dialogue*;
- *Dates and places of next meetings:*
  - . Paris, 8 January 2004
  - . Strasbourg, during the January part-session, 26-30 January 2004
  - . Ljubljana, 8 March 2004 (*Subject to authorisation by the Bureau*)

Bariş Perin, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow