

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 4, 5, 6 and 7 October 2004, first with Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR), and then Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the chair:

- held an exchange of views with Mr Jan Nico Scholten and Mrs Miet Smet, respectively Executive President and Vice-President, *Association of Western European Parliamentarians for Africa*;

as regards:

- **Western Sahara** (Rapporteur: Mr Puche, Spain, EPP/CD): unanimously adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation to be presented in principle to the Standing Committee in Warsaw on 23 November 2004;
- **Debate under urgent procedure: Challenge of terrorism in Council of Europe member States** (Rapporteur: Mr Kosachev, Russian Federation, EDG): adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation as amended, and considered the amendments which had been tabled;
- **The political situation in the Chechen Republic** (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): held an exchange of views with Mr Alu Alkhanov, President of the Chechen Republic, Mr Eli Isaev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic and Minister of Finance, Mr Murat Zyazikov, President of Ingushetia and Mr Sergiey Fridinsky, Deputy Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation; and considered the amendments to the draft Resolution and Recommendation;
- **New concepts to evaluate the state of democratic development** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): considered the amendments to the draft Recommendation and Resolution;
- **Parliamentary contribution to the implementation of the Stability Pact in South-East Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Toshev, Bulgaria, EPP/CD): unanimously adopted a draft Resolution as amended, to be presented in principle to the Standing Committee in Warsaw on 23 November 2004;
- **Relations between Europe and the United States** (Rapporteur: Mr Azzolini, Italy, EPP/CD): adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation unanimously and confirmed its wish to have this debate placed on the agenda of the January 2005 first part-session;
- **Current situation in Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Mrs Tritz, Germany, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to visit to the region;

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- **Symposium on Strengthening democratic institutions** (Rapporteur: Mr Wielowieyski, Poland, EPP/CD): agreed to hold a Seminar in Warsaw on 24 November 2004, subject to authorisation by the Bureau, as part of preparatory work for Assembly's contribution to the Third Summit;
- **Conference of the Parliamentary Troika on the Stability Pact on the "Fight against organised crime in South-East Europe" (Sofia, 11-12 November 2004)**: appointed Mr Severin (Romania) and Mr Ranieri (Italy) as the Committee's representatives, together with Mr Toshev (Bulgaria) and Mr Lindblad (Sweden), in the *Ad hoc* Committee of the Assembly responsible for contributing to and participating in the Conference;
- **Conference of the Council of Europe – The future of Democracy in Europe (Barcelona, 17-19 November 2004)**: appointed Mr Wielowieyski (Poland), Mr Gross (Switzerland), Mr Mercan (Turkey), and Mr Severin (Romania) as its representatives;
- **Invitation to hold a meeting in Azerbaijan**: took note of a letter from Mr Seyidov inviting the Committee to organise a meeting in Azerbaijan during the first half of 2005, accepted the invitation and decided to fix dates at its next meeting;
- **Modification of the name of the Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries**: was informed about the letter from Mr Severin, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, requesting the modification of the Sub-Committee's name, and agreed to change it to "*The Sub-Committee on External Relations*".
- **Appointments of rapporteurs**:
 - a. *The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations*: Mr Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD);
 - b. *The establishment of a stability pact on the Caucasian region*: Mr Severin (Romania, SOC);
 - c. *Condemnation of the admiration and justification of Nazism*: Mr Margelov (Russian Federation, EDG);
 - d. *Iran's nuclear threat*: Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC);
 - e. *The Third Summit*: Mr Kosachev (Russian Federation, EDG);
- **The anniversary of Oświęcim (Auschwitz) liberation**: although this motion was referred to the Committee for information only, concrete action is required. The Committee invited, therefore, its Chairperson to write to the Bureau to request that direct action should be taken;
- **Appointments to sub-committees**:
 - ° *Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries*
. Mr Beneš (Czech Republic), member
 - ° *Sub-Committee on the Middle East*
. Mr Laukkanen (Finland), alternate
 - ° *Sub-Committee on Belarus*
. Mrs Konečná (Czech Republic), member
- **Follow-up to Assembly texts presented by the Political Affairs Committee**

The Committee took note of the following replies from the Committee of Ministers:

- . **Recommendation 1609 (2003) on the Positive experiences of autonomous regions as a source of inspiration for conflict resolution in Europe**. Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 3 June 2004 at the 886th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies;
- . **Recommendation 1629 (2003) on the Future of democracy: strengthening democratic institutions**. Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 8 July 2004 at the 892th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies;

. **Recommendation 1657 and 1658 (2004) on Disappeared persons in Belarus and Persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus.** Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 30 September 2004 at the 898th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies;

. **Recommendation 1659 on Strengthening of United States** adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 22 September 2004 at the 896th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies;

. **Recommendation 1660 on Situation in Kosovo.** Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 September 2004 at the 895th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies;

. Letter by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly relating to the **Resolution 1386 on the Council of Europe's contribution to the settlement of the situation in Iraq;**

- **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee

. Warsaw, 24 November 2004, Symposium on Strengthening Democratic Institutions (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);

. Paris, 14 December 2004 and Hearing on Totalitarianism.

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 5 October 2004, with Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Recent developments in the region:** heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the situation in the Middle East (Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG), held an exchange of views with participation of members of the Knesset, and issued a statement;

- **Future work:** held an exchange of views on the possible visit to the region by the Rapporteur and the Committee's delegation, and concluded that the programme of the visit should include countries which are concerned in the region; agreed that the Sub-Committee should establish contacts with Arab parliamentary institutions, and NGOs;

- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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cc Secretary General and secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Special Guests and Observers to the Assembly

Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

The Sub-Committee on External Relations (formerly the Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries, of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 7 October 2004 with Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

- took note of the Political Affairs Committee's decision to accept the proposed change of its title;

As regards:

- ***Relations with the United Nations: 59th session of the UN General Assembly:***

. held an exchange of views with Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes, Permanent Representative of Norway, Chairman-in-Office of the Ministers' Deputies, on the draft Resolution of the UN General Assembly on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations;

. took note of the reply by the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1659(2004) on *Strengthening of the United Nations* and prepared its visit to New York:

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** New York , 19 – 21 October 2004

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The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 8 October 2004, with Mr Blankenborg (Norway, SOC) in the Chair:

As regards:

- ***Contacts with representatives and authorities of Belarus:*** heard a statement by the Chairperson on recent initiatives of the President of the Assembly and of the Bureau; held an exchange of views;
- ***Situation in Belarus as regards the elections and the referendum of 17 October 2004:*** held an exchange of views with representatives of opposition movements and journalists;
- ***Meeting in Minsk:*** held an exchange of views, and decided to come back to this question at the forthcoming meeting;
- ***Decided to invite,*** at an appropriate time, the Chairman of the Group of Rapporteurs on Democratic Stability (GR-EDS) of the Ministers' Deputies, for an exchange of views;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Bariş Perin, Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow