

**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 Paris on 17 November 2004 with Mr Margelov (Russian Federation, EDG) in the chair,

- adopted a statement on the future presidential election in the Palestinian territories and decided to ask the Bureau to observe this election and to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to cover both the pre-electoral period and the election;

*as regards:*

- **The Third Summit** (Rapporteur: Mr Kosachev, Russian Federation, EDG): held an exchange of views with Mr Klinger, Deputy to the Plenipotentiary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland for the preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit; heard a presentation of a memorandum by the rapporteur; heard a statement by Mr Wielowieyski on the preparation of the Symposium on Strengthening Democratic Institutions in Warsaw in 28 February - 1 March 2005;

- **Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to ensure fair and free regional parliamentary elections in the Chechen Republic** decided to set up an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the preparation of the Round Table, appointed some members to the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee, invited other members to submit their candidacy for membership for the next meeting and decided to hold the Round Table in early 2005;

- **The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference** (Rapporteur: Mr Atkinson, United Kingdom, EDG): adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation to be presented to the first part-session of the Assembly in 2005;

- **Situation in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"** (Rapporteur: Mr Bianco, Italy, EPP/CD): heard a statement on the referendum of 7 November 2004 by the Chairperson of the delegation of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to the Assembly;

- **Need for international condemnation of totalitarianism** (Rapporteur: Mrs Aguiar, Portugal, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on the preparation of the Parliamentary Hearing to be organised in Paris on 14 December 2004; decided that the title was misleading and asked the Rapporteur to change it to match the topic, namely the "Need for international condemnation of the crimes of communism".

- **Appointment of a Representative:**

The Committee appointed Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC) as the Committee's representative to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe.

- **Follow-up to Assembly texts presented by the Political Affairs Committee**

The Committee had a discussion on the letter by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly relating to Resolution 1386 on *the Council of Europe's contribution to the settlement of the situation in Iraq* and on the implementation of paragraph 12 of the Resolution namely in what way "assistance and expertise" could be proposed to Iraq.

- **Next meetings:**

*Plenary Committee*

. Paris, 14 December 2004 and Hearing on Totalitarianism (crimes of communism)

. Strasbourg, 1<sup>st</sup> part-session 2005 (24 - 28 January 2005)

*Sub-Committee on external relations*

. Paris, 13 December 2004 (afternoon)

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