

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Political Affairs Committee
Commission des questions politiques



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis N° 2005 / 62

3 June 2005

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 31 May 2005 with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) and then Mr Kosachev (Russia, EDG) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Election of a Vice-Chairman:** elected by acclamation Mr Kosachev (Russia, EDG) as Third Vice-Chair;
- **The 3rd Summit:** heard a statement by its former Rapporteur, Mr Kosachev (Russia, EDG) on the conclusions of the 3rd Summit; decided to propose to the Bureau that the Assembly should hold a debate under urgent procedure on Follow-up to the Third Summit during the June part-session 2005; subject to a decision of the Assembly to accept its request for an urgent debate, appointed Mr Van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur;
- **Current situation in Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Mrs Tritz, Germany, SOC): amended and adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation, and decided to suggest to the Bureau that Mr Søren Jessen-Petersen, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Kosovo, should be invited to participate in the debate;
- **Situation in the Middle East** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG): held an exchange of views with the participation of representatives of the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council; amended and adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation; and backed the Rapporteur's suggestion that the Assembly should take steps in order to be represented at the Palestinian Donors Conference foreseen in London;
- **Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote** (Rapporteur for Opinion: Lord Tomlinson, United Kingdom, SOC): approved a draft Opinion and adopted amendments to be tabled on its behalf;
- **Strengthening of democratic institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina:** held an exchange of views on the Opinion of the Venice Commission on the Constitutional situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the powers of the High Representative following Resolution 1384, with the participation of Prof. Jowell, member of the Venice Commission;

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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

- **Condemnation of the admiration and justification of Nazism** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and took note of his proposal to organise a hearing in September 2005 and, possibly, to conduct some fact-finding missions in preparation of his report;

- **Need for international condemnation of the Franco regime** (Rapporteur: Mr Brincat, Malta, SOC): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum presented by the Rapporteur;

- **Situation in the Chechen Republic**: held an exchange of views following a statement by Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC), Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee for the organisation of a Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic, and:

- agreed that a new Round Table should focus on the holding of parliamentary elections in the Chechen Republic in compliance with Council of Europe standards. The next Round Table should also aim to contribute to a greater involvement of various political forces to the political process in Chechnya,

- authorised Mr Gross to conduct, in the framework of the preparation for a new Round Table, a working visit to London, and to arrange other working visits as may be necessary to ensure greater representativity of the Round Table,

- took note of a proposal by Mr Gross to organise a cross-party fact-finding visit to Chechnya prior to holding a new Round Table, decided to consider this issue at its next meeting, and asked the Secretariat to study practical modalities for organising such visit;

- **Follow-up of the decisions of the Bureau concerning the Political Affairs Committee**

a) Ukraine: speech by President Yushchenko in January session 2005: heard a statement by the Rapporteur (Mrs Severinsen, Denmark, LDR) and decided to consider its reply to the Bureau's request after the visit of the Presidential Committee to Ukraine (scheduled for July 2005);

b) Belarus: contacts with democratic forces in Belarus: heard a statement by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Belarus (Mr Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD) on the decision of the Bureau to invite political groups to develop contacts with the respective democratic political parties in Belarus and invite their representatives to Assembly part-sessions;

c) Nagorno-Karabakh: implementation of paragraph 5 of Resolution 1416: was informed of the Bureau's decision to constitute an *Ad Hoc* Committee for that purpose, and decided to suggest to the Bureau to extend its composition with respect to the delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan, with a view to including one member per delegation representing the main opposition parties;

- **Next meetings**

Plenary Committee:

. Strasbourg, 3rd part-session (20-24 June 2005)

The Sub-Committee on External Relations (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Paris on 30 May 2005 with Mr Atkinson (United Kingdom, EDG) and then Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Council of Europe's contribution to the European Union's new neighbourhood policy**: continued an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum prepared by the Chair, on the possible organisation of a colloquy on this matter, and asked its Chair to present its conclusions to the Committee;

- **Motion on The Council of Europe and the promotion of democracy** (for report on the external relations of the Council of Europe): held a preliminary exchange of views on a follow-up to the motion, and decided to support its Chair as candidate for appointment as Rapporteur of the Committee;

- **Parliamentary dimension of the United Nations** (Rapporteur: Mrs de Zulueta, Italy, SOC): held a preliminary exchange of views on the issue, concluded that it was essential that the Assembly be invited to attend the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments (UN Headquarters, New York, 7-8 September 2005) organised by the IPU, and asked the Rapporteur (apologised), to put forward proposals on how to increase the role of parliamentarians in the UN with a view to presenting them to the UN Secretary General after this Conference;
- **Situation in Kazakhstan** (Rapporteur: Mr Iwinski, Poland, SOC): took note of a statement by its Chair on the meeting with representatives of the Parliament of Kazakhstan during April 2005 part-session;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during June 2005 part-session.

Ad hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Paris on 30 May 2005 with Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Follow-up to the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic (Strasbourg, 21 March 2005)**:
 - continued an exchange of views on the timing, venue, participants and the subjects for a further Round Table, and concluded that:
 - its representativeness should be extended;
 - it should focus on contributing to the holding of elections in the Chechen Republic in compliance with Council of Europe standards,
 - it should be held well in advance of the elections due in late autumn 2005,
 - it might be held in Grozny or another city in Russia provided the venue would not adversely affect its representivity;
 - took note of a proposal by Mr Gross to organise a cross-party fact-finding visit to Chechnya prior to holding a new Round Table;
 - was informed by its Chair of his visit to Moscow (27 May 2005), and concluded that it would be useful if the Chair could continue his contacts in order to increase the representativeness and the inclusiveness of the Round Table;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during June 2005 part-session.

Barış Perin, Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner