

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 / 111

7 October 2005

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 3, 4 and 6 October 2005 with Mr Ates (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **The Council of Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union** (*Rapporteur: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD*): approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft recommendation; took position on the amendments which had been tabled and agreed on two oral sub-amendments;
- **Need for international condemnation of the Franco regime** (*Rapporteur: Mr Brincat, Malta, SOC*): approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft recommendation as amended;
- **The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations** (*Rapporteur: Mr Timmermans, Netherlands, SOC*): held an initial exchange of views on the basis of a draft report;
- **Situation in Chechen Republic**: heard a statement by Mr Gross, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic under Resolution 1402 (2004), on his visit to Moscow (23 September 2005) and took note of the Bureau's decision to send a delegation to Grozny, composed of Mr Gross and one member from each of the political groups, at a date which could coincide with the elections (27 November 2005);
- **Enhancing the visibility of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a statement by the Rapporteur;
- **Situation in Kazakhstan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Iwinski, Poland, SOC*): took note of a request by the Rapporteur to ask the Bureau for an extension of the reference;
- **Appointment of Rapporteurs for report**: appointed:
 - . Mr Mihkelson (Estonia, EPP/CD) for Compliance by observer countries with the values of the Council of Europe;
 - . Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) for Use of experiences of "the truth commissions";

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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

- **Appointment of Rapporteurs for opinion:** appointed:

Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) for budgetary powers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;

- **References for information:** took note of the following references:

- . Abuse of the criminal justice system in Belarus;
- . Need to fight terrorism as a threat to fundamental human rights;
- . Towards Europe without walls and barbed wire;
- . Possibilities of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Lebanon;

- **Appointment of representatives:**

. *Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein:* Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD);

. *Meeting of the Bureau of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Belarus (Strasbourg, 15 November 2005):* Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD);

- **Composition of Sub-Committees**

appointed new members of its Sub-Committee as follows:

Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Forum for the future of Democracy

- . Mr Elo (Finland, SOC)
- . Mr Torosyan (Armenia, EDG)
- . Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC)

- **Future work:**

- heard a statement by Senator Milne, Chair of the Observer delegation of Canada, on the forthcoming meeting of the Committee in Ottawa (24 and 25 October 2005);

- decided to ask the Bureau to authorise the holding, in 2006, of a meeting in Baku (Azerbaijan), which was planned in July 2005 but postponed by the Bureau, and a colloquy with representation of Central Asian Republics;

- approved a timetable of the presentation of various Committee reports to the Assembly and to the Standing Committee until June 2006, as presented by its Chairman and subject to approval by the Bureau;

- took note that the EPP/CD Group would like to propose Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary) as Vice-Chair of the Committee to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Mr Toshev and decided to proceed with this nomination as soon as this information was officially confirmed;

- **Next meetings**

- Ottawa (Canada), 24 and 25 October 2005;
- Paris, 14 December 2005

The Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Forum for the future of Democracy (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 4 October 2005 with Mr Timmermans (Netherlands, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Preparation of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee's contribution to the launching meeting of the Forum for the Future of Democracy** (Warsaw, 3 and 4 November 2005): heard an oral report by Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) on the meeting of the Advisory Group (Strasbourg, 20 September 2005); held an exchange of views on this basis and decided to propose Mr Gross and Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) as moderators for two sessions of the meeting of the Forum;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** Warsaw, 3 and 4 November 2005.

The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 4 October 2005 with Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Statement by the President of the Assembly.** heard a statement by the President of the Assembly and held an exchange of views;
- **Activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.** held an exchange of views with Mrs Uta Zapf, Member of the German Parliament, of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chair of the OSCE PA ad hoc Working Group on Belarus;
- **Future work:** decided to ask the plenary Committee to authorise the Chair of the Sub-Committee to attend a meeting of the Bureau of the Delegation for Relation with Belarus of the European Parliament (Strasbourg, 15 November 2005), with a view to coordinating future activities;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

The 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 Strasbourg on 5 October 2005 with Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Organisation of the second Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic.** heard a statement by its Chair on his visit to Moscow (23 September 2005), agreed with the position of the Chair that the Round Table would not be held before the elections in Chechnya (27 November 2005), and held an exchange of views on future action;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting, with an option for 13 December 2005 (afternoon).

The Sub-Committee on External Relations (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 6 October 2005 with Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- ***The external relations of the Council of Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): held an exchange of views on the basis of an outline for report presented by the Rapporteur, with the participation of Mr Jean-Louis Laurens, Director General of Political Affairs;
- ***Motion on possibilities of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Lebanon***: was informed that this motion was referred to the Committee for information, and decided to advise the Committee to ask the Bureau that the motion be referred to it for report;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting***: left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

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