

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis N° 2006 / 05

7 June 2006

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 2 June 2006, with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- ***European Muslim communities confronted with extremism*** (Rapporteur: Mr Goulet, France, ALDE): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - . Dr Dalil Boubakeur, President of the French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM);
 - . Mr Soheib Bencheikh, former Mufti of Marseille, Director of the *Institut Supérieur des Sciences Islamiques* of Marseille (ISSI);
 - . Mr Tariq Ramadan, Visiting Professor, University of Oxford;
 - . Ms Zainab Al Touraihi, Contact Body for Muslims and Government (CMO), Netherlands;
 - . Mr Hikmat Mahawat Khan, President of Contact Group Islam (CGI), Netherlands;
 - . Mr Samim Akgönül, University Marc Bloch Strasbourg II; and
 - . Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, Deputy Secretary General, Muslim Council of Britain (MCB);
- ***Referendum in Montenegro***: following an exchange of views, decided to request that the Assembly hold an urgent debate on *Political consequences of the referendum in Montenegro* during the June part-session 2006, and appointed Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, ALDE) as Rapporteur pending the Assembly decision;
- ***Implementation of the decisions of the Third Summit of the Council of Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Kosachev, Russian Federation, EDG): in the absence of the Rapporteur, approved a draft report and adopted a draft recommendation;
- ***The External Relations of the Council of Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- ***Forum for the future of democracy***: held an exchange of views on the Assembly's contribution to the meeting of the Forum for the Future of Democracy, to be held in Moscow on 18-19 October 2006, on the basis of a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the instruction of its Chairman; took note of the availability of its Chairman, Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC), Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) and Mr Timmermans (Netherlands, SOC) to participate in the meetings of the Advisory Board; and appointed Mr Elo (Finland, SOC) as Rapporteur on *The code for good practices of the political parties*, subject to reference to the Committee for report;

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
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **Current situation in Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom, ALDE): considered a memorandum presented by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with Professor Jacques Rupnik, Research Director, Center for International Studies and Research, Paris;
- **Situation in Kazakhstan** (Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC): heard an oral statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to the country (25-29 May 2006) and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mrs Nurlygaim Dzholdasbaeva, Member of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan;
- **Political situation in the Chechen Republic**: heard a statement by Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic, on the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee meeting held on 1 June 2006, and took note of his proposal to organise a fact-finding visit to the Chechen Republic by a group of members of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee in order, inter alia, to assess the conditions for holding a Round Table in Grozny;
- **Use of experiences of “the truth commissions”** (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): heard an oral statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to London (3 May 2006) and took note of his proposal to organise a hearing during a future meeting of the Committee;
- **Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure** (Rapporteur: Mr Mihkelson, Estonia, EPP/CD): heard an oral statement by the Rapporteur giving an overview of the visits to be undertaken in preparation of his report and of his intention to organise a hearing during the 3rd part-session (26-30 June 2006);
- **Situation in Belarus** (Rapporteur: Mr van Winsen, Netherlands, EPP/CD): heard an oral statement by the Rapporteur on his initiative to organise a conference on Belarus in autumn 2006 and decided to revert to this issue at its next meeting;
- **Appointment of representatives**: appointed its Chairman, Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, ALDE) and Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC) to participate in the Conference on Free and Fair Elections (Skopje, 14 June 2006), organised by the Directorate General of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe.
- **Next meetings**
 - . 3rd Part-session 2006 – Strasbourg (26-30 June 2006)
 - . 11-12 September 2006 – Gaziantep - Turkey
 - . 4th Part-session 2006 – Strasbourg (2-6 October 2006)

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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 Paris on 1 June 2006 with Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Organisation of the second Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic**: held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - . Mr Alu Alkhanov, President of the Chechen Republic – Russian Federation;
 - . Mr Dukuvakha Abdurakhmanov, Chairman of the People's Assembly of the Chechen Republic;
- . discussed the possibility of organising a fact-finding visit to the Chechen Republic by a group of members of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee in order, inter alia, to assess the conditions for holding a Round Table in Grozny;
- **Future activities**: took note of proposals by the Chair to study the possibility of using, in the framework of the political settlement in the Chechen Republic, experiences from Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) and the Basque country (Spain) and to organise an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee meeting in London or Belfast, and decided to give it further consideration at a future meeting;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: left it to its Chair to convene the next meeting.