

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No. 2006 / 06

30 June 2006

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 26 to 29 June 2006, with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) and Mr Kosachev (Russian Federation, EDG) in the chair:

as regards:

- **Debate under urgent procedure: Consequences of the referendum in Montenegro** (Rapporteur: Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom, ALDE): unanimously adopted a draft resolution, approved a draft report and agreed on its position vis-à-vis the amendments tabled;
- **The external relations of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): agreed on its position vis-à-vis the amendments tabled;
- **Implementation of the decisions of the 3rd Summit of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Kosachev, Russian Federation, EDG): noted that there were no amendments;
- **Situation in Kazakhstan and its relations with the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC): amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and approved a draft report;
- **Alleged secret detention centers in Council of Europe member states** (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Schieder, Austria, SOC): approved a draft Opinion and proposed amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation prepared by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- **Establishment of a Stability Pact for the South Caucasus** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum drafted by the rapporteur;
- **Need of a greater transparency in the arms trade** (Rapporteur: Ms Ohlsson, Sweden, SOC): took note of the outline report;
- **Situation in Belarus** (Rapporteur: Mr van Winsen, Netherlands, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on the rapporteur's proposal to hold a conference on Belarus, and decided to continue the discussion on the programme and possible participants at a forthcoming meeting;

cc Secretary General and secretariat of the Assembly
 Director General and staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
 Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
 Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
 Special Guests and Observers to the Assembly
 Directors General
 Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
 Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 Director of Communication and Research
 Permanent Delegations to the Council of Europe

- ***Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure*** (Rapporteur: Mr Mihkelson, Estonia, EPP/CD): agreed to the rapporteur's proposal to organise a hearing during the Assembly's October 2006 part-session and took note of a list of orators he may invite;
- ***Preparation of the meeting in Gaziantep***: took note that the Chairman intends to invite representatives of the Parliaments of Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and of the Palestinian Legislative Council for an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East;

Appointment of rapporteurs: appointed:

- Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *Accession of the Republic of Montenegro to the Council of Europe*;
- Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG), Rapporteur on *Inadmissibility of anti-Semitism in the social and political life of Council of Europe member states*;
- Mr Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *Co-operation between the Assembly and the Conference of INGOs*;
- Mr Eörsi (Hungary, ALDE), Rapporteur for a general policy debate on the situation in the Balkans (subject to reference), and authorised him to carry out fact-finding visits to the region;

Appointment of Committee representatives

- Joint conference between the Parliamentary Assembly and the UEFA (Strasbourg, 29 September 2006): appointed Mr Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD) as member of the ad hoc Bureau Committee which would be attending the conference, and authorised the Chair to appoint other representatives expressing an interest (subject to the decision of the Bureau on 30.06.06);
- Meeting of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT), Strasbourg, 13 July 2006: appointed Mr Gross, Mr Severin and Ms Zulueta;

Appointments in Sub-Committees

- Sub-Committee on External Relations: appointed Mr Aligrudic (Serbia) as full member and Mr Kyprianou (Cyprus) as alternate of Mr Pourgourides;
- Sub-Committee on the Middle East: appointed Mr Kyprianou (Cyprus) as alternate of Mr Pourgourides;
- Sub-Committee on Belarus: appointed Mr Prorokovic (Serbia) as full member;

References for information: took note of the reference on *Violations of Human rights in North Korea* and decided that the reference on *Condemning the crimes of totalitarian communist regimes* warranted a report;

- ***Forthcoming meetings***:

- 11-12 September 2006 – Gaziantep (Turkey);
- 4th part-session 2006 – Strasbourg (2-6 October 2006).

* * *

The Sub-Committee on External Relations (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 27 June 2006, with Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) in the chair:

- held an exchange of views with Ambassador Joaquim Duarte, Permanent Representative of Portugal and Chair of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations, on preparations for participation in the 61st General Assembly of the United Nations;

Synopsis 2006/06

- discussed its future activities;
- decided to hold its next meeting during the Assembly's October 2006 part-session.

* * *

The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 29 June 2006 with Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) in the chair:

- elected by acclamation Ms Ohlsson (Sweden, SOC) Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee;
- held an exchange of views on the situation in Belarus with Mr Siarhei Alfer, "United Civic Party", Mr Andrei Bastunets, Vice-President of the Belarus Journalists' Association and Mr Yury Meliashkevich, "Right Alliance";
- discussed its future activities;
- left it to its chair to convene the next meeting.

* * *

The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 29 June 2006 with Mr Goris (Belgium, ALDE) in the chair:

- held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East and on the prospects for the tripartite forum with Mr Itzhaky, member of the Knesset, Mr Khreishe, Vice-President of the Palestinian Legislative Council and Ms Alqawasmeth, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
- decided to hold the launching meeting of the Tripartite forum in the autumn 2006 in Turkey (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
- discussed its future activities;
- left it to its chair to convene the next meeting.

* * *

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner, Eliza Pieter