

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis N° 2006 / 42

13 April 2006

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 10 to 13 April 2006, first with Mr Kosachev (Russian Federation, EDG) and then Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- ***Debate under urgent procedure: Belarus in the aftermath of the presidential election of 19 March 2006:*** appointed Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur, adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation and approved a draft report; was informed of a letter by Mr Konoplev, Chairman of the Chamber of Representatives of Belarus; and took position on the amendments which had been tabled;
- ***Situation in the Middle East*** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG): was informed of a letter from Mr Al-Ramahi, Secretary General of the Palestinian Legislative Council announcing that its representatives would not be able to attend the debate due to lack of the necessary visas; authorised, subject to the Bureau's approval, the Rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to the region in June 2006; adopted a draft resolution, approved a draft report and took position on amendments which had been tabled;
- ***Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union*** (Rapporteur: Mr Kosachev, Russian Federation, EDG): unanimously adopted a draft recommendation, approved a draft report, took position on the amendments and a sub-amendment which had been tabled;
- ***Enhancing the visibility of the Council of Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP/CD): adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation and approved a draft report;
- ***Iran's nuclear programme: the need for an international response*** (Rapporteur: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement by the Rapporteur;

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

- **Current situation in Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom, ALDE): held an exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement by the Rapporteur on his visits to Vienna (Austria, 23 February 2006) and to Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro, 4-7 April 2006);
- **Use of experiences of “the truth commissions”** (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): heard an oral statement by the Rapporteur, took note of his proposal to organise a hearing and authorised him to conduct a visit to London with a view to its preparation, without financial costs for the Assembly;
- **Establishment of a Stability Pact for the South Caucasus** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): took note of the Rapporteur’s proposal to organise a joint hearing in Brussels with the European Parliament on 12 May 2006 and asked its Chair to ask the Bureau for an extension of the reference until the end of 2006;
- **The External Relations of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): took note of the programme of the International Conference on European Parliamentarianism (Saint Petersburg – 28 April 2006), heard a statement by the Rapporteur on preparation of the participation of the Sub-Committee on External Relations in the 61st General Assembly of the United Nations and held an exchange of views on the report on external relations;
- **Forum for the future of democracy:** heard a statement by its Chair on the next meeting of the Forum for the future of democracy and asked him to write to the President of the Assembly as regards the Assembly’s involvement in the process of preparation and follow-up to the meetings of the Forum;
- **Constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina:** took note of a letter from the parliamentary delegation and decided to return to the issue of the possible involvement of the Committee in this issue at a later occasion;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East:** appointed Mrs Durrieu as member and Mr Rochebloine as substitute;
- **Future work:**
 - a) **Consultation of the Committee by the Bureau on a possible follow-up:**
 - **Europe’s response to humanitarian disasters:** decided to recommend to the Bureau to transmit the reference for report to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population;
 - **The code for good practices of the political parties:** decided to ask the Bureau to be seized for report;
 - b) **References to be taken into account in the preparation of reports:**
 - took note of the references on *Energy savings as a way out of Europe’s energy crisis* and *Preserving the environment by energy savings within the public sector and the Council of Europe both* (to be taken into account in the report on Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure);
 - c) **Requests for authorisation to carry out visits or to participate in external events:**
 - decided to ask the Bureau to authorise Mr Brincat (Malta, SOC), Rapporteur on Possibilities of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Lebanon to conduct a fact-finding visit to Lebanon;
 - authorised Mr Mihkelson (Estonia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure to conduct fact finding visits to Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Russian Federation and Ukraine, without financial costs for the Assembly and to participate in the Parliamentary Conference on Energy Co-operation around the Baltic Sea (Riga 15-17 June 2006);
 - d) **Future meetings:**
 - took note of the invitation from the Armenian parliamentary delegation to hold a meeting in Yerevan.

- ***Next meetings:***

Plenary Committee

- . 12 May 2006, Brussels
- . 2 June 2006, Paris
- . 3rd part-session 2006 (26-30 June 2006), Strasbourg

Sub-committees

- . 28 April 2006, St Petersburg – Sub-Committee on External Relations
- . 1st June 2006, Paris – Ad hoc Sub-Committee on the organisation of a Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic

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