

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

AS/PoI/CB (2007) 02

15 February 2007

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 13 February 2007, with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- ***Accession of the Republic of Montenegro to the Council of Europe*** (Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD): took note of the declaration of the authorities of Montenegro regarding the seven minimum principles to be included in the Constitution; of a draft Opinion presented by the Rapporteur, and of two letters with amendment proposals to the draft opinion by the two Rapporteurs for opinion, Mr Jurgens (Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and Mr Holovaty (Monitoring Committee); approved the Rapporteur's proposals for further steps in the accession procedure with a view to presenting the report to the Assembly at the April 2007 part-session;
- ***The code of good practice for political parties*** (Rapporteur: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD): took note of a draft report and draft resolution in the absence of the Rapporteur, and invited members who so wished to submit written comments and suggestions to the Secretariat;
- ***State of human rights and democracy in Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft memorandum prepared by the Rapporteur, and invited members who so wished to submit written comments and suggestions to the Secretariat;
- ***The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations*** (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC): held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft report prepared by the Rapporteur;
- ***Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union***: heard an oral report by Mr Gross on the meeting of the CM-SUIVI 3 on 8 February 2007; appointed, subject to a formal transmission of the text, Mr Ateş as Rapporteur for the Debate on general policy for the opinion on the draft Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union to be held during the April 2007 part-session, and authorised him to attend forthcoming meetings of the Committee of Ministers on this issue;

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

- **Forum on the future of democracy:** took note of the Bureau's decision to set up an ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum, to be chaired by Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD), and to be composed jointly of members of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Forum for the Future of Democracy of the Political Affairs Committee and members of Assembly committees concerned; heard a statement by Mr Lindblad on the organisation of the Forum on the future of democracy to be held in Stockholm/Sigtuna (Sweden) on 13-15 June 2007, took note that the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee would meet on 12 March 2007 in Strasbourg after the Political Affairs Committee plenary meeting; and confirmed its position in favour of a continued strong parliamentary involvement in the preparation of the Forum;
- **Situation in the Middle East** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG): took note of a statement by Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC), Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, on the current situation in the region and the future work of the Sub-Committee, decided to consider at its next meeting whether to request an urgent debate on the issue at the April 2007 part-session; took note of an invitation from the Palestinian Legislative Council for the Sub-Committee to visit the region, and postponed its decision on this matter pending an invitation from the Knesset; agreed that the Tripartite Forum should be launched on that occasion, and took note of the proposal by Mr Mercan (Turkey, EPP/CD), Head of the Turkish delegation to the PACE, to hold the Forum in Turkey if necessary;
- **Situation in Kazakhstan:** was informed by its Chair that the Parliament of Kazakhstan had requested an Observer status with the Assembly and that the Bureau had yet to consider it; took a favourable view on this request in the light of Assembly Resolution 1526 (2006); took note of the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and complementary texts, in particular the Memorandum on External Relations of the Assembly; expressed the view that the Assembly needed a "neighbourhood policy" in line with Resolution 1506 (2006), *inter alia* as regards the granting Observer status to Parliaments of non-member countries, and asked its Chair to bring its views to the attention of the Bureau;
- **The situation in the Republics of Central Asia** (Rapporteur: Mr Mercan, Turkey, EPP/CD): took note of an oral statement by the Rapporteur;
- **Situation in Belarus:** appointed Mr Rigoni (Italy, EPP/CD) as new Rapporteur; held an exchange of views on future activities, and expressed a favourable opinion on the President's proposal to organise a meeting with Belarusian representatives of opposition and civil society as a side event on the occasion of the debate on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe, to be held during the April 2007 part-session;
- **Future work:**
 - . **Situation in Kosovo:** approved a statement on the recent outburst of violence in Kosovo, and decided to appoint a Rapporteur at its meeting on 12 March 2007, who would follow the matter, as requested by the Bureau;
- **Follow-up by the Committee of Ministers to Assembly texts presented by the Political Affairs Committee:** took note of the replies of the Committee of Ministers to the adopted texts originating from the Committee;
- **Membership in Sub-Committees:** appointed Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) as member of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Forum for the Future of Democracy;
- **Next meetings:**
 - . Strasbourg, 12 March 2007;
 - . Strasbourg, 2nd part session 2007 (16-20 April 2007);
 - . Kiev (Ukraine), 21-22 May 2007 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);
 - . Strasbourg, 3rd part session 2007 (25-29 June 2007).

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Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of a Round Table on the political situation in Chechen Republic (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Paris on 13 February 2007, with Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

- heard oral statements by Messrs Gross and Kosachev, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee, on the visit to Moscow and Grozny from 24 to 27 November 2006,
- considered that another fact-finding visit in the region may be necessary prior to a decision on the date of the Round Table;
- took note of Mr Kosachev's proposal that such a visit could be organised when the pre-election campaign for the 2007 elections to the State Duma would be on-going;
- decided to start preparing a list of candidates for participation in the Round Table which would be mutually acceptable to all parties;

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Eliza Pieter