

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

AS/PoI/CB (2007) 03

13 March 2007

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 12 March 2007, with Mr Ates (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair:

observed one minute's silence to pay tribute to Senator Daniel Goulet, who died on 25 February 2007;

as regards:

- **Accession of the Republic of Montenegro to the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD): considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft Opinion;
- **State of (human rights and) democracy in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): considered and approved a draft report as well as the democracy parts of a draft resolution and a draft recommendation; held a joint meeting with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights during which the two committees discussed the state of human rights and democracy in Europe; and, following that meeting, unanimously adopted a draft resolution on the State of human rights and democracy in Europe, as previously amended;
- **The code of good practice for political parties** (Rapporteur: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD): considered and approved a draft report; amended and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Situation in Belarus** (Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his meeting with Mr Gennady Novitsky, Chairman of the Council of the Republic of Belarus (Rome, 2 March 2007);
- **Request for an urgent debate**: decided to request an urgent debate on the situation in the Middle East, to be held during the April-part session 2007;
- **Future work** took note of a preliminary draft programme and practical information concerning the meeting to be held in Kiev (21-22 May 2007).

cc Secretary General and 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
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **Next meetings:**

- . Strasbourg, 2nd part-session 2007 (16-20 April 2007);
- . Kiev (Ukraine), 21-22 May 2007 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
- . Strasbourg, 3rd part-session 2007 (25-29 June 2007);

- . St-Petersburg (Russian Federation), 31 May-1st June 2007, Sub-Committee on External Relations;
- . Stockholm/Sigtuna (Sweden), 13-15 June 2007, Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy.

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy, meeting in Strasbourg on 12 March 2007, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Preparation of the Assembly's contribution to the next session of the Forum (Stockholm/Sigtuna - 13-15 June 2007)**: heard a statement by its Chairman, held an exchange of views with representatives of the Swedish Authorities, with the participation of:

- . Mr Marcus Brixskjold, Director and Head of the Division for Democratic Issues and Human Rights, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality;
- . Ms Katarina Sundberg, Deputy Director, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality;
- . Ms Anna Sundqvist, Forum project leader in the municipality of Sigtuna;

proposed Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC), as General Rapporteur on behalf of the Assembly, took note of the candidatures of Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG) and Mrs Err (Luxembourg, SOC) to be panellists, and agreed that there should be a representative of the Ad Hoc Committee on all panels.

- **Next meeting**: during the 2nd part-session 2007.

Baris Perin, Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner, Eliza Pieter, Oscar Alarcón