

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

***Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly***

**AS/PoI/CB (2007) 04**

20 April 2007

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Strasbourg from 16 to 19 April 2007, with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **Debate under urgent procedure: Situation in the Middle East** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG): considered and approved a draft report, adopted a draft Resolution, took position on the amendments to the draft Resolution;
- **General policy debate: Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union** (Rapporteur: Mr Ateş, Turkey, SOC): considered and approved a draft report, adopted a draft opinion, took position on the amendments to the draft Opinion;
- **Request for accession to the Council of Europe from the Republic of Montenegro** (Rapporteur: Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD): took position on the amendments to the draft Opinion;
- **State of human rights and democracy in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): took position on the amendments concerning the democracy parts of the draft Resolution and draft Recommendation;
- **The code of good practice for political parties** (Rapporteur: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD): took position on the amendments to the draft Resolution;
- **The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations** (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and decided to postpone the adoption of a draft Resolution until the next meeting;
- **Combating anti-Semitism in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG): considered a draft report;
- **Iran's nuclear programme: the need for an international response** (Rapporteur: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/CD): considered a draft 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 and Research  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **Possibilities of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Lebanon** (Rapporteur: Mr Brincat, Malta, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
- **Co-operation between the Assembly and the Conference of INGOs** (Rapporteur: Mr Biberaj, Albania, EPP/CD) considered a preliminary draft resolution, a preliminary draft recommendation and a preliminary draft report;
- **Situation in Belarus** (Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, endorsed his request to conduct a fact-finding visit to Belarus and asked its Chair to submit a request to the Bureau to authorise the visit; heard a statement by Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD), Chair of the Sub-Committee on Belarus, on the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 17 April 2007;
- **Situation in the Republics of Central Asia** (Rapporteur: Mr Mercan, Turkey, EPP/CD): was informed that the Rapporteur would not be in a position to finish his work within time limit due to his illness, and authorised the Chair to request an extension of the validity of the reference;

- **Work programme:**

**A) Appointment of Rapporteurs:** appointed:

- . Mr Aligrudic (Serbia, EPP/CD) Rapporteur on *Secret ballot – European code of conduct on secret balloting, including guidelines for politicians, observers and voters*;
- . Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) Rapporteur on *Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly*;
- . Mr Szabo (Hungary, SOC) Rapporteur on *Distance voting, including e-voting*;
- . Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, ALDE) Rapporteur on *Developments as regards the future status of Kosovo*;
- . Mr Mota-Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD) Rapporteur on *European Muslim communities confronted with extremism*;
- . Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC) Rapporteur on *strengthening co-operation with the Maghreb countries*;

**B) Appointment of Rapporteurs for opinion:** appointed:

- . Mrs Aburto (Spain, SOC) Rapporteur on *Promotion by Council of Europe member states of an international moratorium on the death penalty*;

**C) Appointments of representatives of the Committee:** appointed:

- . Mr Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD) and Mr Mihkelson (Estonia, EPP/CD) to the *Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Parliamentary Conference on "Developing the Energy Community in South East Europe" (Sofia, 25 May 2007), subject to the decision of the Bureau*;

heard a statement by Mrs Durrieu, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and endorsed the Sub-Committee's proposal to set up an ad hoc committee headed by the Chair of the Sub-Committee and composed of the Rapporteur on the Middle East and a representative from each of the 5 political groups to go to the region (Israel and Palestinian Territories), in order to prepare a Tripartite Forum (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);

- **Meeting in Kiev (Ukraine, 21-22 May 2007):** held an exchange of views and decided to leave it to its Chair to decide whether the venue of the meeting would be confirmed.

- **Next meetings:**

- . 21-22 May 2007, Kiev (Ukraine) or 21 May 2007, Paris (*to be confirmed*)
- . 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2007 (25-29 June 2007), Strasbourg

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**Sub-Committee on Belarus** (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 17 April 2007, with Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

*As regards:*

- **Hearing on Belarus: strategies towards democratisation:** heard a statement from Mr René van der Linden, President of PACE, and held an exchange of views with the participation of:

- . Mr Alexander MILINKEVICH, Former presidential candidate,
- . Mr Anatoly LEBEDKO, Chairman of the United Civil Party (UCP),
- . Mr Valery UKHNALEU, Secretary of Central Committee of the Party of Communists of Belarus, and
- . Mr Anatoly LIAUKOVICH, Acting Chairman of the Social-Democratic Party (BSDP);

- **Statement:** approved a statement expressing support for the democratic opposition;

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

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**Sub-Committee on the Middle East** (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 18 April 2007, with Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC) in the Chair:

*As regards:*

- **Future activities:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:

- . Mr Effie EITAM – Representative of the Knesset
- . Mr Yoel HASSON – Representative of the Knesset
- . Mr Hassan KHREISHE – Vice Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council
- . Mr Abdullah ABDULLAH – Representative of the Palestinian Legislative Council

and agreed to propose to the Political Affairs Committee to set up an ad hoc committee headed by the Chair of the Sub-Committee and composed of the Rapporteur on the Middle East and a representative from each of the 5 political groups to go to the region (Israel and Palestinian Territories), with a view to preparing a Tripartite Forum;

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

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**The Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy**, meeting in Strasbourg on 19 April 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, heard a report by Mr J-L Laurens, Director General of Political Affairs, on the preparation of the Forum and discussed the contribution of the ad hoc committee to the meeting in Stockholm;

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

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**The Sub-Committee on External Relations**, meeting in Strasbourg on 19 April 2007, with Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **Preparation of the meetings in St-Petersburg** (31 May-1 June 2007):

- took note of the items suggested for the agenda of the joint meeting with the partner Committees of the WEU Parliamentary Assembly and CIS IPA, agreed with additional items proposed by the Chair; asked Mr Iwiński to make an introductory statement on the observation of elections, Mr Lindblad on Iran and Lord Russell-Johnston on Kosovo (subject to his availability);

- took note of the draft programme and the draft final declaration of the Conference on Intercultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue;

- **Relations with the Andean Parliament**: held an exchange of views with Mrs Ivonne Juez de Baki, Member of the Parliament of Ecuador, representative of the Andean Parliament;

- **Current affairs debate: Soudan and Darfour – Europe's responsibility**: expressed the view that the Sub-Committee should be asked to follow up this debate;

**Date and place of the next meeting**: St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 31 May-1 June 2007

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**Ad Hoc Committee on the implementation of Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference**, meeting in Strasbourg on 17 April 2007, with Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, ALDE) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **Visit to the region**: agreed to postpone the decision on the date and programme to the forthcoming meeting;

- **Future activities**: held an exchange of view;

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

Bariş Perin, Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori, Eliza Pieter, Oscar Alarcón