

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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14 September 2007

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

As regards:

- **Strengthening co-operation with the Maghreb countries** (Rapporteur: Ms Durrieu, France, SOC): discussed an outline report and was informed that the Rapporteur would shortly make a fact-finding visit to Algeria and Tunisia (19-25 October 2007);
- **Coo-peration between the Assembly and the Conference of INGOs** (Rapporteur: Mr Biberaj, Albania, EPP/CD): in the absence of the Rapporteur, unanimously adopted an amended draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Use by Assembly members of their “double mandate”, national and European** (Rapporteur: Lord Tomlinson, United Kingdom, SOC): held an exchange of views on the revised memorandum and decided to ask the Bureau for an extension of the validity of the reference to allow the Rapporteur to consult the national delegations;
- **Developments as regards the future status of Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom, ALDE): heard an oral report by the Rapporteur on his visit to Kosovo (3–6 September 2007) , held an exchange of views and authorised the Rapporteur to carry-out visits to meet Javier Solana (Brussels) and Mr Ischinger (Vienna);
- **Distance voting, including e.voting** (Rapporteur: Mr Szabó, Hungary, SOC): held an exchange of views on a preliminary draft memorandum and asked the Rapporteur to focus the report on distance voting, as e.voting was to be the subject of another report dealing with e-democracy in general; it consequently decided to change the title of the report to “Distance voting”

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cc Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
Director 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

- **Secret Ballot – European code of conduct on secret balloting, including guidelines for politicians, observers and voters** (Rapporteur: Mr Aligrudić, Serbia, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on a draft memorandum;
- **Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly** (Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC): heard an oral report by Mr Wilshire, Chair of the Ad hoc Committee on the observation of the elections in Kazakhstan on the progress of the elections (18 August 2007);
- **Code of good practice on referendums**: decided to propose to the Bureau that it follow the procedure used in adopting the Code of good practice in electoral matters and said it wished to be seized for a report on this subject;
- **Debate on the human rights situation and democracy in Europe**: held an exchange of views on the assessment of the debate held in April 2007 and agreed to propose to the Bureau that a debate be held every year, alternating between democracy one year and human rights the following year;
- **“Truth Commissions” (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC)**: held a hearing with the participation of:
 - . Ms Priscilla B. Hayner, Director of the Geneva Office of the International Centre for Transitional Justice, author of “Unspeakable Truths”;
 - . Ms Francesca Pizzutelli, Advisor, International Justice project, Amnesty International, London;
 - . Mr Driss El Yazami, member of the former Equity and Reconciliation Authority and member of the Human Rights Advisory Council, Morocco;
 - . Prof. Lyal S. Sunga, Lecturer/ Director of Research, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund, Sweden;
 - . Mr Abdulla Istamulov, President, SK Strategy, Grozny-based Center for Strategic Research and the Promotion of Civil Society in the North Caucasus.
- **Next meetings:**
 - . Strasbourg, 4th part session (1-5 October 2007)
 - . Paris, 13 November 2007
 - . Paris, 11 December 2007

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