

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

AS/Pol/CB (2007) 08

4 October 2007

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 1 to 4 October 2007, with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the chair:

With regard to:

- **The vote to appointment a Rapporteur on developments as regards the future status of Kosovo:** was informed by Mr van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, of its position on this subject;
- **The activities of the International Organization for Migrations (IOM)** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC*): discussed and approved a draft oral opinion and, in the absence of the Rapporteur, asked its Chair to present the opinion to the Assembly;
- **Distance voting** (*Rapporteur: Mr Szabó, Hungary, SOC*): discussed and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Secret Ballot – European code of conduct on secret balloting, including guidelines for politicians, observers and voters** (*Rapporteur: Mr Aligrudić, Serbia, EPP/CD*): discussed and approved a draft report and amended and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Code of good practice on referendums** (*Rapporteur: Mr van den Brande, Belgium, EPP-CD*): appointed Mr van den Brande as Rapporteur, discussed and approved a draft report, adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **The situation in the Republics of Central Asia** *Rapporteur: Mr Mercan, Turkey, EPP/CD*: held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft revised memorandum;
- **Situation in Cyprus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hörster, Germany, EPP/CD*): took note of a statement by the Rapporteur on his informal meeting with the members of the Cyprus Delegation and representatives of the Turkish Cypriot Community on 1 October 2007;

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
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **Compliance by observer countries with the standards of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Wilshire, United Kingdom, EPP/CD*): discussed a revised draft report;
- **Developments as regards the future status of Kosovo** (*Rapporteur: Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom, ALDE*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum;
- **Use of experience of the “truth Commissions”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations** (*Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC*): noted that no amendments to the draft resolution had been tabled;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised memorandum and took note of the rapporteur’s next visit to Belarus (16-19 October 2007);
- **Forum for the future of democracy, Madrid, 15-17 October 2008**: heard a statement by Mr de Puig, Chair of the ad hoc Committee on the Forum for the Future of Democracy;
- **Exchange of views with the representatives of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly**: held an exchange of views with the representatives of the APA (Asian Parliamentary Assembly):
 - . Mr H.R. AGUNG LAKSONO, President of the “House of Representatives” of Indonesia
 - . Mr Barrister Muhammad JAMIRUDDIN SIRCAR, President of the Parliament of Bangladesh
 - . Hon. Victor Francisco C. ORTEGA, Member of the Congress of the Philippines
 - . Mr Souleiman HADDA, Member of the Syrian Parliament
 - . Mr NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN, Secretary General of the APA
- **Future activities:**
 - a) Authorisation of visits:**
 - . decided to ask au Bureau to authorise Ms Durrieu (France, SOC), Rapporteur on *Strengthening co-operation with the Maghreb countries*, to visit Cairo on 26 November 2007 to meet Mr Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the Arab League;
 - . at the request of Ms Durrieu (France, SOC), Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, decided to ask the Bureau to authorise the Bureau’s ad hoc Committee on the Middle East to visit Jordan during its visit to the region from 13 to 18 November 2007;
 - . authorised Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC), Rapporteur on *the United Nations: Reform and the Council of Europe member states* to make a visit to Oslo and Stockholm.
 - b) Appointment of representatives:** decided to propose that the Bureau appoint:
 - . Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) to represent the Committee at the *Parliamentary hearing of the IPU at the United Nations (New-York, 20-21 November 2007)*;
- **Next meetings:**
 - . Paris, 13 November 2007
 - . Paris, 11 December 2007

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 2 October 2007, with Ms Durrieu (France, SOC) in the chair:

With regard to:

- **Future activities:** held an exchange of views on the forthcoming visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories by the Bureau's ad hoc Committee (13-18 November 2007) with the participation of:
 - . Mr Hassan KHREISHE, Vice-President of the Palestinian Legislative Council
 - . Mrs Simona FRANKEL, Ambassador of Israel in charge of the relations with the Council of Europe
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

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The Sub-Committees on External Relations (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 2 October 2007, with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) replacing Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) in the chair:

- held an exchange of views with a delegation of the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

Barış Perin, Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner, Laurent Pfaadt