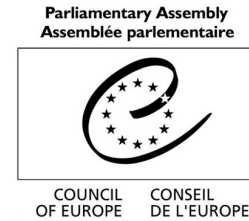


Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No. 2007/10

12 December 2007

The **Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Paris on 11 December 2007 with Mr Kosachev (Russian Federation, EDG), first Vice-Chairman of the Committee, in the chair:

- approved to a statement on the terrorist attacks perpetrated in Algiers the same day;

As regards:

- ***The Council of Europe and its observer states – the current situation and a way forward*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Wilshire, United Kingdom, EDG*): held an exchange of views in the presence of Ambassador Laurette Glasgow, Permanent Observer of Canada, Abbot Florian Kolfhaus, Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of the Holy See, and Mr Alejandro Sousa, representative of the Permanent Observer of Mexico, unanimously adopted an amended draft resolution and an amended draft recommendation, confirmed the change to the title of the report as proposed by the Rapporteur, and asked the Chair to inform the Bureau ;
- ***Developments as regards the future status of Kosovo*** (*Rapporteur: Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom, ALDE*): held an exchange of views, rejected a proposal to postpone the consideration of the draft resolution, adopted by a majority an amended draft resolution and unanimously adopted an amended draft recommendation; took note of the Rapporteur's intention to prepare an addendum to the explanatory memorandum if the development of the situation requires it, as well as of the intention of the Serbian Delegation to present a dissenting opinion on the explanatory memorandum,
- ***Strengthening co-operation with the Maghreb countries*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Durrieu, France, SOC*): held an exchange of views, unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation and took note of the Rapporteur's intention to prepare an addendum to the report following her visit to Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt ;
- ***Situation in the Middle East*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG*): heard an oral statement by Ms Durrieu, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, on the visit to the region 14 – 18 November 2007 by the Ad Hoc Committee set up by the Bureau; gave its approval to Ms Durrieu's proposal to invite Mr Tzazi Hanegbi, Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Knesset and Mr Abdullah Abdullah, Chair of the Political Committee at the Palestinian Legislative Council to take part in an exchange of views at a Committee meeting during the first part-session in January 2008, and agreed to support a request to the Bureau to authorise Ms Durrieu and Mr Margelov, the Rapporteur on the

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
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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

Middle East, to visit the region again within the framework of the organisation of the Tripartite Forum planned for June 2008 ;

- **European Muslim communities confronted with extremism** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal EPP/CD*) : held an exchange of views on a preliminary draft report presented by the Rapporteur ;
- **The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*) : heard an oral statement by Mr Gross on his visits to Stockholm and Oslo (20-21 November 2007) and authorised the Rapporteur to carry out fact-finding visits to Berlin, Helsinki and London, as well as to the United Nations headquarters in New York (with no cost to the Assembly and subject to authorisation by the Bureau) ;
- **The state of democracy in Europe** : held an exchange of views on proposals for specific topics for the 2008 debate and invited the Chair to inform the Bureau of the conclusions ;
- **Information on the parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation (2 December 2007)** : accepted the proposal of Mr Van de Brande, Chair of the Ad hoc Committee to the Bureau responsible for election observation, to postpone this item until the next Committee meeting in order to have the Ad hoc Committee's report which will be presented at the meeting of the Bureau on the 17 December 2007,
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): took note that Nikolai Cherginets, Chairman of the Standing Committee on international affairs and national security of the Council of the Republic of Belarus will not be able to attend the next meeting of the Committee and decided to invite Ms Natalia Andreicik, Chair of the Standing Committee on legislation in the same chamber to replace him ;
- **Divers:**
 - was informed about the Committee of Ministers' documents regarding the report on the Serbian presidency and the priorities of the Slovakian presidency (documents found in the dossiers) as well as the co-operation agreement signed between the PACE and the European Parliament ;
 - heard a notice by Mrs Jane Dinsdale, Director of Political and Legal Affairs at the Parliamentary Assembly, on the main changes in the Parliamentary Assembly's Rules of Procedure following the adoption of Resolutions 1583 (2007) on the *Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings*, 1584 (2007) on the *Application and amendment of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure* and 1585 (2007) on the *Gender equality principles in the Parliamentary Assembly*.
- **Next meetings :**
 - . Strasbourg, 1st Part-Session 2008 (21-25 January 2008).
 - . Paris, 12 March 2008
 - . Meetings 2008 (see Work Programme – dates to be confirmed)

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