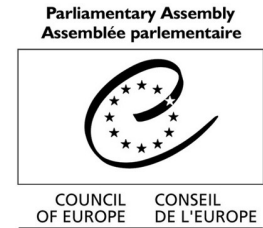


# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



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

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

#### **AS/Pol/CB (2008) 04**

21 May 2008

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Stockholm on 15 and 16 May 2008, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) and with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

- heard a welcoming statement by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Riksdag and held an exchange of views with representatives of the Swedish Government:
  - . Mr Tobias Billström, Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy, Ministry of Justice;
  - . Mr Andreas Carlgren, Minister for the Environment, Ministry of the Environment;
  - . Mr Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs;
  - . Mr Christer Hallerby, State Secretary, Ministry for Integration and Gender Equality;
- attended the Parliament's question hour with the Prime Minister;

*as regards:*

- ***The State of Democracy in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): held an exchange of views, approved a draft report, amended and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- ***General policy debate on the political situation in China on the eve of the Olympic Games***: held an exchange of views, agreed in principle to change the title of the report and asked its Chairman to raise this matter before the Bureau and appointed Mr Mignon (France, EPP-CD) as Rapporteur ;
- ***Situation in the Middle East***: heard a statement by the Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East on the state of the preparation of the meeting of the Tripartite Forum (11-12 June 2008, Rhodes, Greece);
- ***Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft memorandum and subject to a number of adjustments, agreed with the main thrust of the proposals contained therein;

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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

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- **The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): held an exchange of views with the participation of:

- . Mr Jan Eliasson, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General in Darfour, former President of the UN General Assembly, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden;
- . Mr Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Sweden;
- . Mr Bengt Säve-Soderbergh, Ambassador, The Four Nations Initiative on Governance and Management for the UN;
- . Mr Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General of International IDEA;

and heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of a draft memorandum;

- **Use by Assembly members of their “double mandate”, national and European** (*Rapporteur: Lord Tomlinson, United Kingdom, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur relating to the comments received from national delegations;

- **Situation in Belarus**: heard a statement by Mrs Hurskainen, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Belarus, on the meeting of the chairs of the Parliamentary Troika on Belarus (Strasbourg, 22 April 2008), held an exchange of views and took note that a meeting of the Sub-Committee would be held during the June part-session, to which both Belarusian opposition and parliamentary representatives would be invited;

- **Situation in Cyprus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hörster, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit foreseen for 15-19 June 2008;

- **Future work**

a. Appointment of Rapporteurs: appointed

. Mr Agramunt (Spain, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Fight against extremism: achievements, deficiencies and failures*;

. Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Allegations of politically-motivated abuses of the criminal justice system in Council of Europe member States*.

and heard from all of them a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest;

. *The need for international condemnation of Holodomor (artificial famine) in Ukraine in 1932-1933*

. *75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of mass famine in the territory of the former USSR*

following an exchange of views, it decided to merge these two references into a single report, and postponed the appointment of the Rapporteur and the decision on the title of the report to the June part-session 2008.

b. Appointment of representatives: appointed

. Mr Lindblad to attend the international Conference “Europe Conscience and Communism” (Prague, 2-3 June 2008).

- **Next meetings**

. Sub-Committee on the Middle East/Tripartite Forum – Rhodes, 11-12 June 2008

. 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session (23-27 June 2008)

. 10 September 2008, Paris