



Political Affairs Committee

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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25 June 2009

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 22 to 26 June 2009, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) and then Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Debate under the urgent procedure on the Situation in Iran** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft report, adopted unanimously a draft resolution and took position on the amendments which had been tabled to it;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): took position on the amendments which had been tabled to the draft resolution and to the draft recommendation; heard a statement by the Chair of the sub-committee and endorsed the sub-committee's decision to organise a seminar on the abolition of capital punishment in Belarus (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);
- **Establishment of a Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly** (*Rapporteur: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD*): took position on the amendments which had been tabled to the draft resolution;
- **Situation in Kosovo**¹ (*Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Belgrade (8-10 June 2009), authorised the Rapporteur to carry out fact-finding visits to Montenegro and to "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", decided to invite representatives of the Kosovo Assembly as well as other actors with first-hand knowledge of the situation in Kosovo to one of its meetings during the 2009 Fourth part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (28 September – 2 October) and decided to ask the Venice Commission to produce a follow-up opinion on mechanisms to review the compatibility of acts of UNMIK and EULEX with human rights standards in Kosovo.
- **Euro-mediterranean: call for a Council of Europe strategy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Badré, France, ALDE*): took note of an outline for report, authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Barcelona, Spain (Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean), and endorsed his request for a fact-finding visit to Egypt (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- **Fight against extremism: achievements, deficiencies and failures** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPPCD*): took note of a draft memorandum;
- **The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): agreed to the Rapporteur's request to ask the Bureau for an extension of the reference of his report until end of September 2009;
- **Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly** (*Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, agreed to his proposal to prepare an information report to be adopted on 10 September by the Committee and presented to the Assembly during the Fourth part-session;
- **Threshold levels in parliamentary elections, and their impact on the representativity of parliaments in Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Daems, Belgium, ALDE*): took note of an outline for a report presented by the Rapporteur;
- **General Policy Debate on the future of the Council of Europe in the light of its 60 years of experience:** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mignon, France, EPP-CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
- **Promoting parliamentary diplomacy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft memorandum;
- **Forum on early warning in conflict prevention:** heard a statement by the Chair of the ad hoc sub-committee on early warning systems and conflict prevention in Europe;
- **Future work**
 - decided to merge reports on *the future of the Council of Europe in the light of its 60 years of experience (General Policy Debate)* and on *Sixty years of European co-operation*
 - a) Appointment of Rapporteurs for report: appointed:
 - . Mr Mignon, (France, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *“General Policy debate on the future of the Council in the light of its 60 years of experience”*
 - . Mrs Keleş (Turkey, SOC) as Rapporteur on *“Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies”*
 - . Mr Marcenaro, (Italy, SOC) as Rapporteur on *“Reconciliation and political dialogue between the countries of the former Yugoslavia”*
 - . Mr Lipiński, (Poland, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *“The Council of Europe and the Eastern Partnership of the European Union”*
 - . Mr Lindblad, (Sweden, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *“Re-engaging in the parliamentary dialogue with the United States”*
 - . Mr Sambevski, (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *“Expansion of democracy by lowering the voting age to 16”*
 - . Mr Iwiński, (Poland, SOC) as Rapporteur on *“Iran’s nuclear programme: the need for an effective international response”*
 - . Mr Pourgourides, (Cyprus, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *“The eradication of discrimination based on the principle of “collective guilt” in Europe”*

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

b) Reference for consultation on the follow-up to be given

. *Situation in Venezuela*: decided to advise to the Bureau to give no follow-up to this reference;

c) References for information

decided to ask the Bureau to be seized for report for the following references:

. *The evaluation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact approaching its 70th anniversary*

. *Learning lessons from “coloured revolutions”*

. *Democracy and the limitation of mandates*

. *The 20th anniversary of collapse of totalitarian regimes in Europe*

took note of the following reference for information

. *The bilateral relations between Moldova and Romania*

d) Call for candidatures for future appointment of a Rapporteur

. *Regional co-operation (former Rapporteur: Mr Adonts, Armenia, ALDE)*: agreed not to continue work on this motion;

- **Composition of sub-committees:** appointed:

Sub-committee on the Middle East:

. Mr Corlatean (Romania) as member and Mr Mang (Romania) as alternate.

- **Next meetings**

- . 10 – 11 September 2009, Paris – Political Affairs Committee and Conference on “What future for human rights and the democratic ideal in Europe? The role of the Council of Europe
- . 24-25 September 2009, Strasbourg – Forum on early warning in conflict prevention
- . 4th part-session (28 September - 2 October 2009), Strasbourg
- . 21-23 October 2009 – Kiev - Forum on the future of democracy
- . 17 November 2009, Paris
- . 15 December 2009, Paris

The Sub-committee on Belarus of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 23 June 2009, with Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC), in the Chair:

- **elected** Mr Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) as Vice-Chair;

as regards:

- **Future work:** decided to organise a seminar on the abolition of capital punishment in Belarus (*subject to authorisation by the Bureau*);

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** left it to its Chair to convene its next meeting
The Sub-committee on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 25 June 2009, first with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD), and then Mrs Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair:

- ***elected*** Mrs Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) as Chair;

as regards:

- ***Situation in the Middle East:*** held an exchange of views with the participation of:

- . Mr Yonathan PLESNER, representative of the Knesset
- . Mr Moshe Mutz MATALON, representative of the Knesset
- . Mrs Yuli TAMIR, representative of the Knesset
- . Mr Abdullah ABDULLAH, Chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council
- . Mrs Najat ALASTTAL, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

- ***Future work:*** agreed to discuss the follow up to be given to the Tripartite Forum process at the next meeting.

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

The ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy of the Bureau, meeting in Strasbourg on 25 June 2009, with Mr Popescu (Ukraine, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- ***Preparation of the Assembly's contribution to the next session of the Forum (Kiev, 21-23 October 2009):*** held an exchange of views with the participation of:

- . Mr Jean-Louis Laurens, Director General, Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs;
- . Mr Childerik Schaapveld, Director of Democratic Institutions;
- . Mr Michael Remmert, Head of the Unit "Forum for the future of democracy/e-democracy"

- - ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** Kiev, 21-23 October 2009

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner, Alexandra Alléon