



Political Affairs Committee

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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14 September 2009

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 10 and 11 September 2009, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- was informed by its Chair of the decisions relevant to the work of the Committee taken by the Bureau on 7 September 2009, and in this context and following an exchange of views on the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact and on other events preceding the Second World War, decided to hold a hearing on these matters and invited the Chairman to propose a draft programme for such a hearing;

as regards:

- **Situation in the Middle East** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a report by the Chair of the sub-committee on the Middle East on the meeting held on 9 September 2009 relating to the preparation of a new session of the Tripartite Forum, took note of a statement by the Rapporteur on the situation in the region and held an exchange of views with representatives of the Knesset and of the Palestinian Legislative Council;

- **The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report, and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;

- **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*): considered and approved a draft report, adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation and agreed to the rapporteur's proposal to include the conclusions of the Conference "What future for human rights and democracy in Europe? The role of the Council of Europe" as an appendix to the report;

- **Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly** (*Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report for information and invited the Chair to transmit it to the Bureau;

- **Threshold levels in parliamentary elections, and their impact on representativity of parliaments in Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Daems, Belgium, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft memorandum;

- **Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Keleş, Turkey, SOC*): 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 (24-25 September 2009 - Strasbourg)** took note of a revised programme of the Forum on early warning in conflict prevention presented by the Chairman of the ad hoc committee set up by the Bureau;

- **Future work**

a) *Motions to be referred to the Committee* (subject to ratification by the Assembly on 28 September 2009):

took note that the appointment of Rapporteurs would be made during the 4th part-session of the Assembly, taking into account, as far as possible, the d'Hondt system calculation of distribution of rapporteurships between the political groups, as well as gender equality, and invited members interested in becoming Rapporteurs to inform the Secretariat;

b) *Authorisations by the Committee:*

authorised Mr Çavușoğlu (Turkey, EDG) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Moldova in the framework of the report on "The need for international condemnation of Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933; 75th anniversary of mass famine in the territory of the former USSR"

c) Preparation of the exchange of views on the situation in Kosovo¹, to be held during the 4th part-session 2009 (28 September-2 October 2009):

endorsed Mr von Sydow's proposal, in his capacity as Rapporteur on the situation in Kosovo¹, to invite Mrs Zylfije Hundozi, Mr Bujar Bukoshi, Mr Marko Jaksic, and Mrs Rada Trajkovic to participate in the planned exchange of views.

d) Future meetings:

agreed, subject to authorisation by the Bureau, to hold a meeting in Brussels on 17 November 2009;

- **Conference "What future for human rights and democracy in Europe? The role of the Council of Europe"**: participated in the Conference held on 11 September 2009;

- **Next meetings**

- . 24-25 September 2009, Strasbourg – Forum on early warning in conflict prevention
- . 4th part-session (28 September - 2 October 2009), Strasbourg
- . 17 November 2009, Brussels (subject to authorisation by the Bureau)
- . 15 December 2009, Paris

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner

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.

The Sub-committee on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 9 September 2009, with Mrs Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair:

as regards:

- ***Situation in the Middle East:*** heard a statement by Mr Fassino, the Rapporteur on the Middle East;

- ***Future work:*** held an exchange of views with the participation of:

. Mr Yonathan PLESNER, representative of the Knesset;

. Mr Abdullah ABDULLAH, Chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council;

. Dr Epiphan SABELLA, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council;

and agreed to continue the preparation of the next session of the Tripartite Forum and to hold it in February-March 2010 (venue to be confirmed).

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** during the 4th part-session 2009 (28 September-2 October 2009)

Agnieszka Nachilo