



Political Affairs Committee

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

AS/PoI/CB (2010) 02

19 March 2010

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 18 March 2010, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) and Mr Lipiński (Poland, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- *heard* a statement by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, and held an exchange of views with him;

as regards:

- **Fight against extremism: achievements, deficiencies and failures** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, decided to postpone the adoption of this report;
- **Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Keleş, Turkey, SOC*): considered and approved a report, and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **2010 debate on the state of democracy in Europe:**
 - . **Extra-institutional actors of power in the democratic system** (*Rapporteur: Mr Daems, Belgium, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and approved an outline for his report, including the new title;
 - . **The political consequences of the economic crisis** (*Rapporteur: Mr Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): took note of an outline for a report and approved the new title proposed by the Rapporteur;
 - . **Democracy in crisis: follow-up to Resolutions 1547 (2007) and 1617 (2008)**: appointed Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as Rapporteur, heard a statement and asked him to propose a new title for his report;
- **Situation in the Middle East**: heard a statement by Mr de Puig, Chair of the sub-committee on the Middle East, on the meeting of this sub-committee held in Izmir (4-5 March 2010), held an exchange of views with Mr Al-Salhi and Mr Assaf, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and appointed Mr Fassino (Italy, SOC) as Rapporteur;

- **Situation in Kosovo**¹ (*Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his second visit to the region (21-26 February 2010), declassified an information note on this visit (AS/Pol/Inf (2010) 02) and agreed to the Rapporteur's proposal that the report be presented at the Assembly's June 2010 part-session;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and declassified her memorandum (AS/Pol (2010) 09); agreed to ask the Venice Commission to give an expert opinion on the amendments recently introduced to the Belarusian electoral code (if necessary in co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR); agreed to her request to conduct a fact-finding visit to Belarus in order to make the necessary contacts in view of organising a seminar on the introduction of a moratorium on capital punishment, to be held in Belarus, as well as for the purpose of collecting information for the preparation of her report, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau; authorised her to host, in her capacity as Chair of the ad hoc sub-committee on the follow-up to Resolution 1671(2009), the next meeting of the Chairs of the Parliamentary Troika on Belarus; took note of the reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 1874 (2009) on *Situation in Belarus*;
- **Future work:** appointed:
 - a) Rapporteurs for report:
 - Mr Mignon (France, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Follow-up to the reform of the Council of Europe* ;
 - Mrs Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) as Rapporteur on *The impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the Council of Europe*;
 - Mr Harutyunyan (Armenia, EDG) as Rapporteur on *The need for a code of good practice in the field of funding of electoral campaigns*;
 - b) Rapporteurs for opinion
 - Mrs Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Legal remedies for human rights violations in the North-Caucasus Region* (report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights);
 - c) Meetings in St.Petersburg (7-8 April 2010):
 - was informed that the Bureau had authorised the sub-committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation to participate in the joint meeting of the sub-committee on external relations with partner Committees from CIS and WEU Assemblies (7 April 2010) and in the Joint Parliamentary Conference of the Commonwealth of Independent States Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (CIS-IPA) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on "The future of European Security" (8 April 2010);
 - agreed to the proposal by the Chair that, at the joint meeting on 7 April, the following items would be presented on behalf of the Assembly:
 - . Parliamentary contribution to conflict prevention (Mr Wilshire);
 - . Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies (Ms Keleş);
 - further agreed to suggest that one of the two panel discussions to be held in the framework of the conference on 8 April should be dedicated to "Soft Security";

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.

d) was informed by the Chair of an invitation by the Parliament of Georgia to hold a Committee meeting in their country in 2010;

- **Membership of sub-committees:**

appointed Mr Tekelioğlu (Turkey, EPP/CD) as member of the Sub-Committee on external relations as alternate of Ms Keleş;

- **Next meetings**

Plenary Committee:

- . 2nd part-session 2010 (26-30 April 2010)
- . 1 June 2010, Paris
- . 3rd part-session 2010 (21-25 June 2010)

Sub-committee on external relations and sub-committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation:

- . 7-8 April 2010, St. Petersburg (Russian Federation).

The sub-committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 18 March 2010, with Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair:

- took note of the decision of the Bureau to authorise the sub-committee to meet in St. Petersburg on 7 and 8 April 2010, on the occasion of the Conference on «The future of European Security»;
- held an exchange of views on its work programme for 2010;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** 7-8 April 2010, St. Petersburg (Russian Federation).

The ad hoc sub-committee on follow-up to Resolution 1671 (2009) on Situation in Belarus of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 18 March 2010, first with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC), the oldest member present, and then Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) in the Chair:

- *elected* by acclamation Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) as Chair;
- *elected* by acclamation Mr Evans (United Kingdom, EDG) as Vice-Chair;
- heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of a draft memorandum and supported her proposals:
 - . that the Committee should ask the Venice Commission to give an expert opinion on the amendments recently introduced to the Belarusian electoral code (if necessary in co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR);

. to conduct a fact-finding visit to Belarus, in order to make the necessary contacts in view of organising a seminar on the introduction of a moratorium on capital punishment, to be held in Belarus, as well as for the purpose of collecting information for the preparation of her report, subject to authorisation by the Bureau;

- took note of a letter by the Belarusian authorities regarding the seminar on the introduction of a moratorium on capital punishment;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

Despina Chatzivassiliou, João Ary, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner