



## Political Affairs Committee

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

*Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

### AS/PoI/CB (2010) 03

30 April 2010

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Strasbourg from 26 to 30 April 2010, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) and then Mr Lipiński (Poland, EPP/CD) and Mr Kosachev (Russian Federation, EDG) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **Situation in Belarus: recent developments:** confirmed Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) as Rapporteur for the debate under urgent procedure; considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, took position on the amendments tabled and held an exchange of views with Mr Alexander Yushkevich, Chairman of the Standing Committee on human rights, national relations and mass-media of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, and Mr Anatoly Lebedko, Co-Chairman of the National Committee of the United Democratic Forces (UDF) of Belarus, Chairman of the United Civic Party;
- **Fight against extremism: achievements, deficiencies and failures** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation with a view to an Assembly debate at one of its next part-sessions;
- **Code of good practice in the field of political parties** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*); heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of a preliminary draft report, considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution with a view to a debate at the next meeting of the Standing Committee in Skopje (21 May 2010);
- **Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Keleş, Turkey, SOC*): took note that the Chair would present the report during the debate in the Assembly, in the absence of the rapporteur, and took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
- **Commemorating the victims of the great famine (Holodomor) in the former USSR** (*Rapporteur: Mr Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG*); took note that the Chair would present the report during the debate in the Assembly; heard a statement of the President and took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
- **Euro-Mediterranean: call for a Council of Europe strategy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Badré, France, ALDE*); took position on the two new amendments tabled to the draft resolution, as the Committee had already taken position on the other amendments already tabled during the January part-session 2010;

- **Situation in Kosovo**<sup>1</sup> (*Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report, including a preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation, held an exchange of views and took note that the report would be presented at the Assembly's June 2010 part-session;
- **2010 debate on the state of democracy in Europe:**
  - . **The political consequences of the economic crisis** (*Rapporteur: Mr Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of a draft memorandum and held an exchange of views;
  - . **Democracy in Europe: crisis and perspectives** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*); heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of a draft memorandum, took note of the new title proposed for his report and held an exchange of views;
  - . **Extra-institutional actors of power in the democratic system** (*Rapporteur: Mr Daems, Belgium, ALDE*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, took note of a draft memorandum;
- took note that all three reports would be presented at the Assembly's June 2010 part-session as part of the debate on the state of democracy in Europe and should therefore be adopted by the Committee during its next meeting in Paris (1 June, 2010);
- held an exchange of views on possible guest speakers for this debate and drew up a list of proposals;
- **The Council of Europe and the Eastern Partnership of the European Union** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lipiński, Poland, EPP/CD*); heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of a revised memorandum, held an exchange of views and authorised the Rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Brussels;
- **Re-engaging in the parliamentary dialogue with the United States** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Washington (23-24 March 2010), took note of an outline for a report and held an exchange of views;
- **Sub-committee on external relations**; heard a statement by the Chairman of the sub-committee on external relations on the participation in the joint meeting held in St.Petersburg with the sub-committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation and 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);
- **Sub-committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation**; heard a statement by the Chairman of the sub-committee on future work;
- **Follow-up by the Committee of Ministers to Assembly texts presented by the Political Affairs Committee**; took note of the replies adopted by the Committee of Ministers on:
  - . Recommendation 1859 (2009) *Attitude to memorials exposed to different historical interpretations in Council of Europe member states.*
  - . Recommendation 1858 (2009) *Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force*

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- **Future work:** appointed Mr Aligrudic (Serbia, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Expansion of democracy by lowering the voting age to 16* and heard from him a statement on the absence of conflicts of interests;

- **Next meetings**

- . 1 June 2010, Paris
- . 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2010 (21-25 June 2010)

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**The sub-committee on the Middle East** of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 April 2010, with Mr de Puig (Spain, SOC) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by its Chair on the meeting of the sub-committee held in Izmir (4-5 March 2010);

*as regards:*

- **Preparation of the Tripartite Forum:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Qais Khader, Mr Bassam Al-Salhi, Mr Fuad Kokaly, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and Mrs Simona Frankel, Ambassador of Israel and;

- . agreed on a preliminary draft agenda based on three presentations;

- . considered the possibility of starting dialogue on the issues in such agenda within the framework of the sub-committee;

- **Date and place of the next meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2010 (21-25 June).

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