



Political Affairs Committee

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

AS/Pol/CB (2010) 09

17 December 2010

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 14 and 15 December 2010, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) and then Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Follow-up to the reform of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mignon, France, EPP/CD*): approved a draft report and considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Reconciliation and political dialogue between the countries of the former Yugoslavia** (*Rapporteur: Mr Marcenaro, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visits to Bosnia-Herzegovina (22-23 November 2010) and to Brussels (29-30 November 2010); approved a draft report and considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation; agreed to organise an exchange of views with representatives from the parliamentary delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, as well as with representatives of the civil society from these countries, at the beginning of the January 2011 part-session of the Assembly;
- **Expansion of Democracy by lowering the voting age to 16** (*Rapporteur: Mr Aligrudić, Serbia, EPP/CD*): heard a communication by the Rapporteur on the basis of an introductory memorandum, held an exchange of views with Mr Mourad Mahidi from the European Youth Forum (Brussels) and asked the Rapporteur to present a draft report with a view to an Assembly debate during the April 2011 part-session;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her participation in the Troika meeting (Brussels, 9 December 2010) on the forthcoming elections in Belarus;
- **Situation in Kosovo**¹ (*Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Kosovo (28-30 November 2010), held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Xhavit Haliti, member of the Presidency of the Assembly of Kosovo (from the majority), and Mr Ibrahim Gashi, member of the Presidency of the Assembly of Kosovo (from the opposition), and authorised the Rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Pristina and Belgrade in Spring 2011;
- **The Council of Europe and the Eastern partnership of the European Union** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lipiński, Poland, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, postponed the adoption of a draft report and took note that it had been withdrawn from the agenda of the January 2011 part-session of the Assembly;
- **External relations**: heard a statement by Mr Aligrudić (Serbia, EPP-CD), on behalf of Mr Slutsky (Russian Federation, SOC), Vice-Chairman of the sub-committee on External Relations, on the meeting held in New York on the occasion of the 65th General Assembly of the United Nations and the IPU Parliamentary hearing (2-3 December 2010);

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.

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- **Future work:**

Appointed for report:

Mr Badré (France, ALDE) as Rapporteur on *Reaffirming the universal nature of human rights*;

Mr Meikar (Estonia, ALDE) as Rapporteur on *Democracy and human rights in the foreign policy of Council of Europe Member states: search for a joint approach*;

Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as Rapporteur on *How much and what kind of state is needed in a democratic and just society?*;

Appointed for opinion:

Mr Moriau (Belgium, SOC) as Rapporteur for opinion on *National sovereignty and statehood in contemporary international law: the need for clarification*;

Mr Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Religious dimension of multicultural dialogue*.

- **Next meetings**

- . 1st part-session 2011 (24-28 January 2011)
- . Plenary Committee, 9 March 2011, Paris

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The sub-committee on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 14 December 2010, with Mr Tekelioğlu (Turkey, EPP/CD), Vice-Chairman, in the Chair:

- heard a statement by its Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the Chairman;
- followed presentations on issues related to water by:
 - . Mr Cohen, expert for the Knesset
 - . Dr. Aleiwi, expert for the Palestinian Legislative Council
- held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - . Mr Plesner, Member of the Knesset
 - . Dr. Sabella, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
 - . Mr. Salhi, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
 - . Mr. Assaf, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
- agreed to pursue discussions, during the January 2011 part-session, on a number of concrete water treatment projects, on projects to develop the Eastern aquifer and on projects to reduce water leakages, to be proposed by each delegation.

Despina Chatzivassiliou, João Ary, Pavel Chevtchenko, Silvia Arzilli

- cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Observers to the Assembly
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisation Developments and Reform
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe