



Political Affairs Committee

Secretariat

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AS/Pol/CB (2011) 06

9 September 2011

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Caserta on 6 September 2011, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **The impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE*): considered and approved a report and considered and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Request for Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Palestinian National Council** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kox, Netherlands, UEL*): considered and approved a report and considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Open discussion on current issues**: held an exchange of views on a range of current political developments with the participation of the President of the Assembly;
- **Replies given by the Committee of Ministers to recommendations stemming from the Committee, adopted by the Assembly as of January 2010: comments by the Committee**: considered a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat, approved the comments contained therein and left it to its Chairman to ensure appropriate follow-up;
- **National sovereignty and statehood in contemporary international law: the need for clarification** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Moriau, Belgium, SOC*): considered and approved an opinion, including amendments to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
- **Violence against religious communities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views on the basis of an information note;
- **Follow-up to the Bureau's decisions taken at the 2011 third part-session (Strasbourg, 20-24 June 2011)**: instructed the Secretariat to prepare draft proposals for action for its next meeting during the October part-session regarding the follow-up to Recommendation 1975 (2011) *Living together in 21st century Europe: follow-up to the report of the Group of the Eminent Persons of the Council of Europe*;
- **Authorisations by the Committee:**
 - authorised Mr Badré, as Rapporteur on *Reaffirming the universality of human rights*, to participate in the 2011 Lisbon Forum, organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations, on the theme "The Arab Spring: a major step towards making universal rights real" (Lisbon, 3-4 November 2011);
 - confirmed the Bureau's decision to authorise Mr Gardetto, as Rapporteur on *Co-operation between the Council of Europe and emerging democracies in the Arab world*, to carry out a fact-finding visit to Egypt, with a view to preparing an addendum to his report for consideration during the October part-session;

- endorsed the request by Mr Vrettos, as Rapporteur on the *Situation in the Middle East*, to accompany Mr Gardetto during his fact-finding visit to Egypt, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau.

- **Future work:** issued a call for candidatures for the report on *The erosion of confidence in democracy and possible responses*, with a view to the appointment of a Rapporteur at its next meeting;

- **Next meetings**

- 3-7 October 2011 (4th part-session), Strasbourg
- 14-15 November 2011, Paris
- 14 December 2011, Paris.

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The Sub-Committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Caserta on 6 September 2011, first with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) and then Mr Viorel Badea in the Chair:

- elected Mr Viorel Badea (Romania, EPP/CD) as Chairman;
- elected Mr Patrick Moriau (Belgium, SOC) as Vice-Chairman;
- **Future work:** held an exchange of views on the work programme of the Sub-Committee and confirmed its earlier decision to organise a hearing on the peace process in Northern Ireland;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

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