

# Parliamentary **Assembly** **Assemblée** parlementaire

Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**AS/Per (2006) PV 1**  
Strasbourg, 10 April 2006

## **Standing Committee**

### **Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

**of the meeting held at the  
French National Assembly  
on 17 March 2006 in Paris, France**

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<sup>1</sup> Approved by the Assembly on 10 April 2006

## 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mr van der Linden, President of the Assembly, opened the meeting at 9.30 a.m.

He thanked the French hosts, and in particular Mr Schreiner, Chairperson of the national delegation of France, for their invitation to hold the current meeting of the Standing Committee at the National Assembly in Paris.

## 2. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MR JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER, PRIME MINISTER OF LUXEMBOURG, ON HIS DRAFT REPORT ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

AS/Bur (2006) 29

Mr Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, said that he planned to present his report on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union (EU) at the Parliamentary Assembly session on 11 April 2006. Even though the request for the report had come from the heads of state and government, he had chosen the Parliamentary Assembly for the public presentation of the report because it met regularly and in order to emphasise the leading role of parliaments within democracies. The Assembly was also ideally placed to follow-up the implementation of the report's recommendations.

He would confine himself to presenting the basic principles of his report and recalled that it had been written in his own name. This had offered him a certain flexibility in its drafting. The report would demonstrate the need to retain the Council of Europe as one element of the European institutional landscape with its own instruments, powers and responsibilities, which had to be distinguished from those of the EU.

He believed that co-operation between the Council and the Union should be further developed, on the basis that there would be no competition between the two. Given the scale and quality of the Council's experience in the human rights field, therefore, it should have absolute priority in this area. This meant that the Agency for Fundamental Rights currently being established by the European Union should be confined to the application of Community law in EU member states. Against this background, the Council of Europe's main task would be to assess the human rights situation in non-EU member countries. Depending on circumstances and when the situation required, the Agency could ask the Council to undertake additional assessments, in accordance with its own instruments.

Mr Juncker also thought that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights should be granted a leading role within the Agency. The Council should also have a seat on the Agency's governing body and should appoint its own representative. As such it would not be considered as an adjunct of the Agency but rather as an integral part of its governing bodies.

Turning to the EU Constitutional Treaty, which provided for Union accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, Mr Juncker said that his report would include proposals that would enable the EU to accede to the Convention via its member states without awaiting ratification of the Treaty.

He thought that the so-called "disconnection clauses" question should be defused and said that his report would make proposals for involving EU member states in the machinery for applying Council conventions and in their actual application in the countries concerned.

There was also scope for improving institutional relations between the two organisations, for example by involving the Council's Secretary General in the Union's "political" activities and by strengthening co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament. He would also propose that the EU be authorised to refer matters to the Human Rights Commissioner and that it accede to the partial agreement establishing the European Commission for Democracy through Law, the so-called Venice Commission. More account should also be taken of NGOs and local and regional authorities in the two organisations' activities.

Finally, Mr Juncker pointed out that the Council of Europe was active in areas other than human rights. These included culture, intercultural dialogue, education and youth activities, all of which were essential if Europeans were to learn to live together.

In connection with the two organisations' respective positions on the European political scene, Mr de Puig thought that its membership, its political nature and its geographical scope gave the Council of Europe a specific role that the Union could not replace. Indeed, it could contribute to the Union's neighbourhood policy, since some of the country's concerned, particularly in the Middle East, were direct neighbours of the Council

of Europe. He thought that the Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights would duplicate work being carried out and that, given the existence of the European Court, the Human Rights Commissioner and the Assembly's human rights committee and sub-committee this would simply lead to a waste of resources. Turning finally to the parliamentary dimension, he thought that close co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament would also facilitate co-operation between the latter and the national parliaments of Council of Europe member states.

Mr Van den Brande said that EU member states that were also members of the Council of Europe had a dual loyalty. The 25 EU member states must not be allowed to form a bloc within the Council. The former group therefore had a double responsibility. Given the financial problems facing both organisations, they also needed to avoid any duplication of activities. Nevertheless, the Agency for Fundamental Rights could be useful in a clearly defined context, namely that of applying Community law and nothing else. He agreed with Mr de Puig on the EU's neighbourhood policy and encouraged the Union to use Council of Europe instruments and conventions in certain areas. Finally, it was important not to reach any conclusions on the "memorandum of agreement" between the two organisations before the Assembly had had the opportunity to consider it in a written form.

Mr Kosachev said that the debate on relations between the two organisations was important for non-EU member countries. The Union was undoubtedly an effective organisation but only the Council exercised authority right across Europe. The parliamentary dimension should play a key part in the report and the European Union should accede to the European Convention on Human Rights. Finally, he hoped that the Assembly would be able to express its views on the "memorandum of understanding" between the two organisations.

Mrs Severinsen thought that there was a great risk of duplication of activities as regards the Fundamental Rights Agency, given the size of the Agency's operating budget. Tax payers' money should be better used and be concentrated on improving dialogue between Council of Europe member states, particularly by stepping up the monitoring system and intercultural dialogue to supplement the Union's neighbourhood policy.

Mr Kox said that, according to the conclusions of the Third Summit, the Council of Europe had resolved to concentrate on the core values it was pledged to protect, namely democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and on co-operation with the EU. The European Court should not be allocated financial resources at the expense of other Council activities, a point supported by Mr Schreiner.

Mrs Papadimitriou called for the report to give full prominence to the parliamentary dimension and asked whether it was appropriate to base the new agency on the former European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia in Vienna.

Mr Legendre was concerned that the new agency might lead to duplication and referred to the current financial difficulties.

Mr Gross proposed EU participation in the financing of the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr Ates called for a division of labour to ensure that the Council and the EU did not compete and grow increasingly remote from each other.

Mr Juncker said that his report would include proposals on how the EU agencies should be organised. Co-operation between the two organisations should be properly structured and he would present proposals on how this co-operation should be financed. However, as far as the European Court was concerned, he invited members of parliament to enter into direct discussions with their national governments about possible additional funding from national budgets, rather than seeking EU financial support. It was illogical to complain about excessive EU influence on Council of Europe decision making and then ask it to finance part of the Council's activities from its own resources.

### 3. EXAMINATION OF NEW CREDENTIALS

Doc. 10843

The Standing Committee **ratified** the credentials of several newly appointed members of the parliamentary delegations of Finland, Greece and Iceland, as they appeared in Doc. 10843.

**4. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Committees (2006) 3

The Standing Committee **ratified** the changes in the composition of Assembly Committees in respect of the delegations of Finland, Greece, Iceland and the Netherlands, as they appeared in Committees (2006) 3.

**5. REQUEST FOR A CURRENT AFFAIRS DEBATE**

The President said that he had received a request for a current affairs debate on 14 March 2006 signed by Mr Legendre, Chairperson of the Committee on Science, Culture and Education, and some forty others. It concerned freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs. The Bureau supported the idea of a debate on this topic.

The Standing Committee **approved** the request and noted that the Bureau had appointed Mr Legendre to be first speaker (for the debate itself, see item 10 of the agenda).

**6. AGENDA**

AS/Per (2006) OJ 1

The draft agenda was **adopted**.

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY'S SITTINGS ON 26 JANUARY (AFTERNOON) AND 27 JANUARY (MORNING) 2006**

AS(2006) PV 7 and 8

The minutes of the Parliamentary Assembly's sittings on 26 January 2006 (afternoon) and 27 January 2006 (morning) were **approved**.

**8. REFERENCES, TRANSMISSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES**

AS/Bur (2006) 027

The Head of the Table Office referred to document AS/Bur (2006) 027 and the proposals agreed by the Bureau in the morning.

The Standing Committee **approved** the references, transmissions and modifications of references as they appeared in Appendix II.

**9. OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS**

AS/Bur/AH PAL (2006) 2

**Elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (25 January 2006)****Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau:  
Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, ALDE)**

Lord Russell-Johnston presented the report on the observation of elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council. Despite worries about possible violence because of the difficult political situation, the elections had been organised and conducted in a democratic fashion.

Mr Kox said that a debate on the situation in the Middle East was scheduled for the April 2006 part-session and that a representative of the Palestinian parliament would be invited to take part.

Mr Ates said that a representative of Hamas should also be invited.

The Standing Committee **took note** of the report.

**10. CURRENT AFFAIRS DEBATE**

Mr Legendre opened the debate on freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs. Freedom of expression and thought were at the heart of the Council of Europe's values. They should not try to limit

freedom of the press but adopt a European approach to the problem. For some, their faith was absolute and deliberate violation of it could cause real suffering that might be condemned in the courts. This was the case with the publication of the cartoons in Denmark. Freedom of expression must not be restricted but it might be subject to political manipulation, social disquiet and nationalist fervour.

Mr de Puig agreed that freedom of expression should not be restricted but it also had to be compatible with respect for others. The cartoons did constitute an attack on Muslims but he pointed out that the angry reactions had occurred several months after they appeared.

Mrs Severinsen said that the Danish Prime Minister had condemned the blasphemy but had not prosecuted the newspapers that had published the cartoons. Freedom of expression should always go hand in hand with respect for others. It was therefore essential to resume dialogue but also to guarantee press independence and its right to criticise the authorities, thus enabling it to combat totalitarian religious regimes.

Mr Kox said that absence of censorship underlays freedom of expression but a civilised society was one in which people were not entitled to insult others deliberately. The indignant reactions of those concerned were in large measure a consequence of differences in power and wealth, of which these parts of the world were well aware.

Mrs Papadimitriou also spoke of the need to respect others, which was often governed by unwritten rules, and called on the Council of Europe to draw up instruments to avoid further difficulties, particularly connected with racism, with the Muslim world.

Mr Van de Brande also thought that a balance had to be struck between freedom of expression and respect for others. Freedom of expression was a shared value, despite diversity of opinions.

Mr Çavuşoğlu thought that Denmark should apologise for what had happened. It was supporting the United States in the Iraq war and authorised certain television channels and newspapers that were banned elsewhere. However, Muslims should use democratic methods rather than violence to protest.

Mr Hörster referred to freedom of the press and said that governments should not have to apologise on behalf of the press. This was not a question of a clash of cultures but of protests and violence that were being manipulated by middle eastern countries that lacked legitimacy in the eyes of their people.

The President said that the Committee on Science, Culture and Education would be presenting a report on "blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion" and said that he intended to ask the Bureau to refer the subject of this current affairs debate to the Committee.

## 11. POLITICAL AFFAIRS

### **Need for international condemnation of the Franco regime**

Doc. 10737

#### **Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee: Mr Leo Brincat (Malta, SOC)**

Mr Brincat presented the report "Need for international condemnation of the Franco regime", which appeared in Doc. 10737. Franco had operated a totalitarian regime that had committed the most extreme human rights violations. Even though Spain was now a democracy, his report made certain proposals aimed at ensuring that the sacrifices made by the civilian population during this period would never be forgotten.

Mr de Puig said that the aim of the report was to avoid any repetition of the events in Spain and ensure that the reconciliation process that followed the regime's fall would serve as an example.

Mr Kox thought that countries could learn from what had happened in Spain.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the recommendation as it appeared in Doc. 10737.

## 12. SOCIAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

### A dynamic housing policy as an element of European social cohesion

Doc. 10833

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs:  
Mr Denis Jacquat (France, EPP/CD)**

Mr Jacquat presented the report "a dynamic housing policy as an element of European social cohesion", which appeared in Doc. 10833. He spoke of the need to reaffirm the right to housing and said that persons with a home integrated more easily into society.

Mrs Cliveti supported the report's conclusions and drew particular attention to poverty among women.

Mr Gardetto said that there was a particular problem in small areas such as his where the housing market was very speculative.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the resolution as it appeared in Doc. 10833.

## 13. MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND POPULATION

### New trends and challenges for Euro-Mediterranean migration policies

Doc. 10763

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population:  
Mr Franco Danieli (Italy, ALDE)**

On behalf of Mr Danieli, Mr Çavuşoğlu presented the report on "new trends and challenges for Euro-Mediterranean migration policies", which appeared in Doc. 10763. It called for closer co-operation between the Mediterranean countries to manage migration and a strengthening of the Mediterranean's traditional role as an economic and cultural crossroads.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the recommendation as it appeared in Doc. 10763.

## 14. CULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

### The future and regeneration of coalfields in Europe

Doc. 10825

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs:  
Mr Jean-Pierre Kucheida (France, SOC)**

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs (for opinion):  
Mr Bill Etherington (United Kingdom, SOC)**

On behalf of Mr Kucheida, Mr Legendre presented the report on "the future and regeneration of coalfields in Europe", which appeared in Doc. 10825. More than 80% of the jobs in the coal mining had disappeared in the space of twenty years and the areas affected needed comprehensive regeneration. He referred to the cultural aspects of the mining industry, including books and films, which constituted a very special heritage.

Mr Etherington presented the opinion of the Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, which appeared in Doc. 10845. Society as a whole had inherited the knowledge and skills of the mining industry and this heritage must be preserved.

Mrs Cliveti thanked the rapporteur for having taken into account problems affecting women in the report.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the resolution as it appeared in Doc. 10825.

## 15. ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

### Regrouping land in Central and Eastern Europe

Doc. 10836

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs:  
Mr Theo Maissen (Switzerland, EPP/CD)**

In Mr Maissen's absence, Mr Schmied presented the report on "regrouping land in central and eastern Europe", which appeared in Doc. 10836. The agricultural policy had to be modified to allow the owners of small and scattered parcels of farming land to regroup them into larger cultivable tracts, in accordance with prevailing legislation.

Mr Preda said that the report cited a successful pilot project that could serve as an example. He did not think it appropriate to refer to a pilot project with no European ramifications in the resolution and moved an oral amendment to delete paragraph 8 of the draft resolution.

Following a vote, the oral amendment **was rejected**.

Following a further vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the resolution as it appeared in Doc.10836.

## 16. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN

### a. Mechanisms to ensure women's participation in decision-making

Doc. 10743

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for women and men:  
Mrs Minodora Cliveti (Romania, SOC)**

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities (for opinion):  
Mrs Ana Catarina Mendonça (Portugal, SOC)**

Doc. 10846

Mrs Cliveti presented the report on "mechanisms to ensure women's participation in decision-making", which appeared in Doc. 10743. She criticised the fairly low percentage of women members of parliament at national and international levels and called for more sharing of responsibilities between women and men.

Mrs Mendonça presented the opinion of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, which appeared in Doc. 10846 and she said that certain proposals in the report raised procedural problems.

Mr Schreiner called for a family policy that gave women the opportunity and time to become more involved in politics and society.

Mrs Mendonça presented an amendment to replace paragraphs 8.2 and 8.3 with a single paragraph. Following a vote, the amendment was **adopted**.

Following a further vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the modified resolution and the recommendation as they appeared in Doc. 10743.

### b. Gender budgeting

Doc 10764

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for women and men:  
Mrs Anna Čurdová (Czech Republic, SOC)**

In Mrs Čurdová's absence, Mrs Cliveti presented the report on "gender budgeting", which appeared in Doc. 10764. Such budgets would not only offer women more financial resources but also ensure that income and expenditure were restructured to promote equality between the sexes.

Mr Schmied said that the current trend was towards harmonising budgets and treating the two sexes equally whereas this report pointed towards a separate assessment of women's and men's needs.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the recommendation as it appeared in Doc. 10764.

**17. RULES OF PROCEDURE AND IMMUNITIES****a. Interpretation of Article 15.a of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe**

Doc. 10840

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities:  
Mr Erik Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)**

On behalf of Mr Jurgens, Mr Gross presented the report on "interpretation of Article 15.a of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe", which appeared in Doc. 10840. Henceforth, the correct interpretation was that Council of Europe immunity would apply when members were exercising their functions as Assembly members or when travelling on Assembly business, whether inside or outside their national territory. If they were not active within this meaning or not travelling on Assembly business, the national regime would apply.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the resolution as it appeared in Doc. 10840.

**b. Inclusion in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure of a new rule on co-operation with the European Parliament**

Doc. 10784

**Rapporteur of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities:  
Mr Erol Aslan Cebeci (Turkey, EPP/CD)**

Mr Cebeci presented the report on "inclusion in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure of a new rule on co-operation with the European Parliament", which appeared in Doc. 10784. For years, the European Parliament had had a specific rule on co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly. The reason for including such a rule in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure was to encourage co-operation with committees of the Parliament in areas of common interest and offer Assembly bodies a certain clarity and flexibility in their activities.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee **adopted** the resolution as it appeared in Doc. 10784.

**18. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**19. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

The Standing Committee **confirmed** that the next meetings will be held in:

- Moscow, Monday 29 May 2006,
- San Marino, Friday 17 November 2006.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.



## APPENDIX I

## LIST OF THOSE PRESENT

**President of the Parliamentary Assembly**

Mr René van der LINDEN (EPP/CD) Netherlands

**Vice-Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly**

Mr Bernard SCHREINER (EPP/CD) France  
 Mr Claudio AZZOLINI (EPP/CD) Italy  
 Mr Giuseppe ARZILLI (EPP/CD) San Marino  
 Mrs Elsa PAPADIMITRIOU (EPP/CD) Greece  
 Mr Joachim HÖRSTER (EPP/CD) Germany  
 Mrs Maria POSTOICO (UEL) Moldova  
 Mr Per-Kristian FOSS (EPP/CD) Norway  
 Mr Cezar Florin PREDA (EPP/CD) Romania  
 Mr Jean-Charles GARDETTO (EPP/CD) Monaco  
 Mr Konstantin KOSACHEV (UEL) Russian Federation

**Chairpersons of Political Groups**

Mr Lluís Maria de PUIG Socialist Group (SOC)  
 Mr Luc Van den BRANDE Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)  
 Mr Tiny KOX (Replacing Mr Einarsson) Group of the Unified European Left(UEL)

**Presidents of national delegations**

Mr Doros CHRISTODOULIDES (UEL) Cyprus  
 Mrs Hanne SEVERINSEN (ALDE) Denmark  
 Mrs Katrin SAKS (SOC) (Replacing Mr Mihkelson) Estonia  
 Mr Mikko ELO (SOC) Finland  
 Mr Bernard SCHREINER (EPP/CD) France  
 Mr Joachim HÖRSTER (EPP/CD) Germany  
 Mrs Elsa PAPADIMITRIOU (EPP/CD) Greece  
 Mr Birgir ÁRMANNSSON (UEL) Iceland  
 Mr Claudio AZZOLINI (EPP/CD) Italy  
 Mr Marcel GLESENER (EPP/CD) Luxembourg  
 Mrs Maria POSTOICO (UEL) Moldova  
 Mr Jean-Charles GARDETTO (EPP/CD) Monaco  
 Mr Dirk DEES (ALDE) Netherlands  
 Mr Per-Kristian FOSS (EPP/CD) Norway  
 Mr Karol KARSKI (NR) Poland  
 Mr Konstantin KOSACHEV (EDG) Russian Federation  
 Mr Giuseppe ARZILLI (EPP/CD) San Marino  
 Mr Lluís Maria de PUIG (SOC) Spain  
 Mrs Carina OHLSSON (SOC) Sweden

Mr	Dick MARTY (ALDE)	Switzerland
Mr	Andrej ZERNOVSKI (ALDE) (Replacing M. Ivanovski)	"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia »

**Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee**

Mr Abdülkadir ATEŞ (SOC) ..... Turkey

**Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**

Mr Dick MARTY (ALDE) ..... Switzerland

**Chairperson of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee**

Mr Marcel GLESENER (EPP/CD)..... Luxembourg

**Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population**

Mr Mevlüt ÇAVUŞOĞLU (EDG) ..... Turkey

**Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education**

Mr Jacques LEGENDRE (EPP/CD)..... France

**Chairperson of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs**

Mr Walter SCHMIED (ALDE)..... Switzerland

**Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men**

Mrs Minodora CLIVETI (SOC)..... Romania

**Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities**

Mr Andreas GROSS (SOC)..... Switzerland

**Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)**

Mrs Hanne SEVERINSEN (ADLE) (Replacing Mr Frunda) ..... Denmark

**Rapporteurs**

Mr Leo BRINCAT (SOC)	Malta
M. Erol Aslan CEBECI (EPP/CD)	Turkey
Mrs Minodora CLIVETI (SOC) (in her name and replacing Mrs Čurdová)	Romania
Mr Mevlüt ÇAVUŞOĞLU (EDG) (replacing Mr Danieli)	Turkey
Mr Bill ETHERINGTON (SOC)	United Kingdom
Mr Andreas GROSS (SOC) (replacing Mr Jurgens)	Switzerland
Mr Denis JACQUAT (EPP/CD)	France
Mr Jacques LEGENDRE (EPP/CD) (replacing Mr Kucheida)	France
Mrs Ana Catarina MENDONÇA (SOC)	Portugal

Lord Russel RUSSELL-JOHNSTON (ALDE)  
M. Walter SCHMIED (Suisse, ALDE) (replacing Mr Maissen)

United Kingdom  
Switzerland

### **Also present**

#### **Invited Guest**

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER, Prime Minister of the Grand-Duché of Luxembourg

#### **Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly**

Mr Mateo SORINAS, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Mr Wojciech SAWICKI, Director of the General Services  
Mr Jan KLEIJSEN, Director, Special Adviser to the President  
Mr Kjell TORBIÖRN, Head of the Office of the Secretary General of the Assembly and Head of Secretariat of the Bureau  
Mr Horst SCHADE, Head of the Table Office  
Mr Peter SICH, Head of the Private Office of the President  
Mrs Micaela CATALANO, Head of the Communication Unit  
Ms Linda NYLUND, Secretary of the Standing Committee

#### **Council of Europe**

Mr Terry DAVIS, Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Mrs Maud DE BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Mr Marc SCHEUER, Director of Political Advice and Co-operation, Directorate General of Political Affairs  
Mrs Mireille PAULUS, Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Ministers  
Mrs Seda PUMPYANSKAYA, Director of the Directorate of Communication and Research  
Mr Markus ADELSBACH, Administrator, Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

#### **Permanent Representatives to the Council of Europe**

Mr Jacques BOISSON, Permanent Representation of Monaco  
Mr Daniel BUČAN, Ambassador of Croatia to the Council of Europe  
Mr Joaquim DUARTE, Ambassador of Portugal to the Council of Europe  
Mr DUBOIS, Representative of the European Commission to the Council of Europe  
Mr Marek ESTOK, Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the Council of Europe  
Mr Tørbjorn FRØYSNES, Ambassador of Norway to the Council of Europe  
M. Valery LEVITSKIY, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe  
Mr Erik LUNDBERG, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe  
Mr Gheorghe MAGHERU, Ambassador of Romania to the Council of Europe  
Mrs Kateřina MARKOVÁ, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe  
Mr Ronald MAYER, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe  
Mr Philippe MERLIN, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe  
Mr Christian TER-STEPANIAN, Ambassador of Armenia to the Council of Europe  
Mr Jakob Dahl THOMSEN, Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the Council of Europe  
Mr Hubert WURTH, Ambassador of Luxembourg in Paris

#### **Autres**

Mr Olivier BALDAUFF, Secretary of Legation 1st Rank to the Embassy of Luxembourg in Paris  
Mr Mil JUNG, Director of the Information and Press Service, Ministry of State of Luxembourg  
Mrs Judith MEYERS, Diplomatic Cell of the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Ministry of State  
Mr Victor WEITZEL, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration  
Ms Delphine DIAZ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris



**APPENDIX II****SYNOPSIS**

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 17 March 2006 in Paris, with Mr van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the chair:

- held an exchange of views with Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, on the draft report on the relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union;
- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegation of Finland, Greece and Iceland;
- ratified the changes in the composition of general Assembly committees in respect of the delegations of Finland, Greece, Iceland and the Netherlands;
- held a current affairs debate on freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs, introduced by Mr Legendre, Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education;
- held an exchange of views on the report on the observation of the elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (25 January 2006) on the basis of the report by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau, presented by Lord Russell-Johnston;
- adopted, on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly, the following texts:

<b>Resolution 1486 (2006)</b>	<b>A dynamic housing policy as an element of European social cohesion;</b>
<b>Resolution 1487 (2006)</b>	<b>The future and regeneration of coalfields in Europe;</b>
<b>Resolution 1488 (2006)</b>	<b>Regrouping land in Central and Eastern Europe;</b>
<b>Resolution 1489 (2006)</b>	<b>Mechanisms to ensure women's participation in decision-making;</b>
<b>Resolution 1490 (2006)</b>	<b>Interpretation of Article 15.a of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe</b>
<b>Resolution 1491 (2006)</b>	<b>Inclusion in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure of a new Rule on co-operation with the European Parliament</b>
<b>Recommendation 1736 (2006)</b>	<b>Need for international condemnation of the Franco regime</b>
<b>Recommendation 1737 (2006)</b>	<b>New trends and challenges for Euro-Mediterranean migration policies;</b>
<b>Recommendation 1738 (2006)</b>	<b>Mechanisms to ensure women's participation in decision-making;</b>
<b>Recommendation 1739 (2006)</b>	<b>Gender budgeting;</b>

- ratified the following references and modifications of references proposed by the Bureau:

**A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES**

**Reference No.3181 Doc. 10815**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Evin and others**  
**Strengthening of the co-operation between Council of Europe member states**  
**to prevent and tackle health risks linked to the development of pandemics**

Reference to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report* at the Standing Committee.

**Reference No. 3182 Doc. 10816**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Sasi and others**  
**The need to conclude the WTO Doha Development Agenda in 2006**

Reference to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *to be taken into account* in the annual report on the OECD.

**Doc. 10822 rev. English only**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Platvoet and others**  
**Relations between the State, Religion and individuals**

To consult the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *on a possible follow-up*.

**Reference No.3183 Doc. 10823**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Veenendaal and others**  
**Energy savings as a way out of Europe's energy crisis**

Reference to the Political Affairs Committee *to be taken into account in the report on "Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure"*

**Doc. 10824**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs de Zulueta and others**  
**Europe's response to humanitarian disasters**

To consult the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *on a possible follow-up*.

**Doc. 10826**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Severin and others**  
**The code for good practices of the political parties**

To consult the Political Affairs Committee *on a possible follow-up*

**Reference No. 3184 Doc. 10827**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bockel and others**  
**Transfrontier co-operation**

Transmission to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*

**Reference No. 3185 Doc. 10828**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Illicali and others**  
**Transport policies in Europe**

Transmission to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for information*.

**Reference No. 3186 Doc. 10829**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Dendias and others**  
**Situation of longstanding refugees and displaced persons in South East Europe**

Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report at the Standing Committee.*

**Doc. 10830**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Eörsi and others**  
**Conflict of interests**

To consult the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *on a possible follow-up*

**Reference No. 3187**    **Doc. 10831**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Högmark and others**  
**Overcoming remaining obstacles to Economic Development in South-Eastern Europe**

Transmission to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for information*

**Reference No. 3188**    **Doc. 10832**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jurgens and others**  
**Freedom of assembly and expression for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons in member States**

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to be taken into account in the report on "Legal recognition of same sex partnerships in Europe"

**Reference No. 3189**    **Doc. 10839**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Hancock and others**  
**With respect to the "Pasat case"**

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring committee) *for opinion*

**B.                            MOTIONS POSTPONED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE BUREAU**

**Reference No. 3190**    **Doc. 10573**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr McNamara and others**  
**Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights by the Parliamentary Assembly**

Reference to the Committee of Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the report on the "Council of Europe Commissioner of Human Rights – stock-taking and perspective" and to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for information.*

**Reference No. 3191**    **Doc. 10603**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Bērziņš and others**  
**Voting in the Parliamentary Assembly must be made in the spirit of openness, transparency and accountability**

Reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for report* at the Standing Committee.

**Reference No. 3192**    **Doc. 10634**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marty and others**  
**Improving the participation of parliamentarians in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly**

Reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities for report to be debated together with the report on "The institutional balance at the Council of Europe"

**Reference No. 3193 Doc. 10635**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Walter and others**  
**Access to satellite broadcasting platforms**

Transmission to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*

**Reference No. 3194 Doc. 10667**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Legendre and others**  
**Promoting the teaching of European literature**

Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for a report* on "Increasing awareness of cultural heritage as part of European identity".

**Reference No. 3195 Doc. 10669**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Ms Wurm and others**  
**Police handling of complaints filed by women**

Reference to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the report on the "Parliamentary Campaign to combat domestic violence against women".

**Reference No. 3196 Doc. 10697**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Schmied and others**  
**Preserving the environment by energy savings within the public sector and the Council of Europe**

Reference to the Political Affairs Committee *to be taken into account* in the report on "Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure"

**Reference No. 3197 Doc. 10716**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Wodarg and others**  
**Embryonic, Foetal and Post-natal Animal-Human Mixtures**

Reference to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the report on "*the precautionary principle*"

**Reference No. 3198 Doc. 10719**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Çavuşoğlu and others**  
**Migration and mobility in the Eurasian Region – Prospects for the Future**

Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *to be taken into account* in the follow-up to the first Eurasian Forum on Migration.

**Doc. 10725**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Padilla and others**  
**Method for the amendment of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure**

No further action.

**Reference No. 3199 Doc. 10747**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Preda and others**  
**Establishment of a European Institute for Early Warning, Management and Studies of Natural Calamities Crises**

Transmission to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*.

**Reference No. 3200 Doc. 10753**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bousakla and others**  
**Abduction and "re-education" of Muslim women and children who have become too "Western-minded"**

Reference to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*.



**Reference No. 3206 Doc. 10775**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rigoni and others**  
**Palliative care**

Reference to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*.

**Reference No. 3201 Doc. 10804**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Bērziņš and others**  
**Concern over Russian NGO Law Amendments**

Reference to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the ongoing monitoring report with respect to Russia

**C. REQUEST TO MODIFY A REFERENCE**

**Reference No. 3202 Doc. 10799**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Pericleous Papadopoulos and others**  
**The need to enhance European air safety**  
**Reference N° 3172, 27 January 2006**

Reference to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report at the Standing Committee*

**D. REQUEST TO EXTEND A REFERENCE**

**Doc. 10106 rev.**  
**Motion for a resolution by Mr Holovaty and others**  
**Institutional balance at the Council of Europe**  
**Ref. 2946 valid until 26 April 2006**

Extension until 1 October 2006.

**E. FOLLOW-UP AFTER CONSULTATION**

**Doc. 10714**  
**Motion for an opinion presented by Mr Pourgourides and others**  
**Freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in**  
**Turkey**  
**and**  
**Doc. 10724**  
**Motion for an opinion presented by Mr Mercan and others**  
**The plight of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, Greece**

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for a single report* on "Freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in Turkey and for Muslim minorities in Thrace (Western Greece)

**Reference No. 3204 Doc. 10718**  
**Motion for an opinion presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others**  
**Femicides**

Reference to Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*.

**Reference No. 3205 Resolution 1436 (2005)**  
**Iran's nuclear programme: the need for an international response**

Reference to the Political Affairs Committee *for a new report*.

- confirmed that the next meetings of the Standing Committee will be held in:
  - Moscow on Monday 29 May 2006;
  - San Marino, on Friday 17 November 2006.