



AS/Per (2006) PV 3
16 January 2007

Standing Committee

Minutes¹

**of the meeting held
in San Marino
on 17 November 2006**

¹ Approved by the Assembly on 22 January 2007

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mr van der Linden, President of the Assembly, opened the meeting at 9 am.

He thanked the parliamentary authorities of San Marino for their invitation to hold the current meeting of the Standing Committee in San Marino, which coincided with the 18th anniversary of San Marino's accession to the Council of Europe. This was also the second time in its history that San Marino was holding the Committee of Ministers chairmanship. He was pleased to see that a number of the Assembly's preoccupations featured among the priorities of the San Marino chairmanship. He mentioned relations with the European Union and more specifically the importance of finalising the Memorandum of Understanding on the strengthening of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union, of settling the question of the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency and of implementing the recommendations of the Juncker report. He would be raising these questions during his forthcoming visit to Germany, in the context of the German presidency of the Union. He also intended to raise the issue of Turkey's accession to the European Union.

Europe had to open up to the outside world; its security and stability were at stake. He was particularly pleased, therefore, that promoting intercultural and inter-faith dialogue featured high among the priorities of the San Marino chairmanship. The Council of Europe was ideally placed, more than any other organisation because its member States reflected the diversity of cultures and religions, to contribute to that dialogue.

However, the Organisation, which was Europe's conscience and the guardian of common values, could not fulfil its commitments if the member States refused it the financial and political means it needed. He called on the San Marino chairmanship to act as a mediator in this connection.

Finally, the President praised the Russian chairmanship, for the period just completed, under whose aegis substantial progress had been made on major issues. He could only wish the San Marino chairmanship the same success.

2. ADOPTION OF A SOLEMN DECLARATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, WITH A VIEW TO THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN (MADRID, 27 NOVEMBER 2006) AS/Per (2006) 5

The President said that, by adopting Resolution 1512 (2006) last June, the Assembly had actively committed itself to the preparation of the Council of Europe Campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence. The campaign would be launched on 27 November, in Madrid. It was the responsibility of parliamentarians to condemn domestic violence against women and combat it with all the means at their disposal. For that reason he called on the Standing Committee to adopt the draft solemn declaration on "Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women", prepared and approved by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

The Standing Committee **adopted** the draft solemn declaration on "Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women" (see appendix 1 to appendix II below).

Mrs Cliveti welcomed this decision.

3. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MR FIORENZO STOLFI, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND FOR ECONOMIC PROGRAMMING OF SAN MARINO, CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS CM/Inf(2006) 48

Mr Stolfi, Secretary of State for Foreign and Political Affairs and Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers, made a statement (reproduced in Appendix III to these minutes).

The **President** thanked the Secretary of State for his statement.

In reply to a question from Mr **Iwiński**, **Mr Stolfi** said that San Marino's legislation guaranteed gender equality in all areas, including politics. Women had been elected Captain-Regent; the government, like parliament, included women, but San Marino intended to pursue its efforts to further expand the role and place of women in politics.

Responding to a question from **Mr Van den Brande** on cooperation with the European Union, **Mr Stolfi** reiterated that the San Marino chairmanship wished to follow on from the action of the Russian chairmanship and considered this question, and more specifically the concluding of the Memorandum of understanding, as a high priority.

The President fully shared this view and thanked the Secretary of State.

Following the exchange of views, **Mr Jurgens**, Vice-President of the Assembly, took over from the President in the chair.

4. EXAMINATION OF NEW CREDENTIALS

Doc. 11086

The Standing Committee **ratified** the credentials of the newly appointed members of the parliamentary delegations of Denmark and Romania as they appeared in Doc. 11086.

5. MODIFICATIONS IN THE COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

Commissions (2006)7

The Standing Committee **ratified** the changes in the composition of Assembly committees in respect of the delegations of Denmark, Georgia, Portugal and Ukraine as they appeared in the document Commissions (2006)7.

6. REQUEST FOR A CURRENT AFFAIRS DEBATE OR A DEBATE UNDER URGENT PROCEDURE

The President said that no request for a current affairs debate or a debate under urgent procedure had been submitted within the required deadline and, accordingly, there would be no debate under item 11.

7. AGENDA

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The President informed the Standing Committee that Mr Bērziņš, chair of the parliamentary delegation of Latvia, had requested, in a letter dated that day, that item 13 a. of the agenda be postponed to the next Standing Committee meeting on the basis of rules 15.6 and 46.5 of the Rules of Procedure.

Mr Severin stated his opposition, reiterating that there was a consensus on this question within the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, which had prepared the report.

The President noted that in the absence of five members backing the request, the request was refused.

The draft agenda was **adopted**.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY'S SITTINGS HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2006 (AFTERNOON) AND 6 OCTOBER 2006 (MORNING)

AS (2006) PV 30 and 31

The minutes of the Parliamentary Assembly's sittings on 5 October 2006 (afternoon) and 6 October (morning) were **approved**.

9. REFERENCES, TRANSMISSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

AS/Bur (2006)089

The Secretary General of the Assembly referred to document AS/Bur (2006) 089 setting out the proposals concerning the references, transmissions and modifications of references to committees considered by the Bureau at its meeting on 14 November 2006.

Mr Gardetto argued for the motion for a resolution on *paediatric medicines in Europe* to be referred to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for a separate report. **Agreed**, following a vote.

Mr Van den Brande asked that the motion for a recommendation on *the budget of the Council of Europe* also be referred to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for a separate report. **Agreed**, following a vote.

The Standing Committee **approved** the references, transmissions and modifications of references as they appeared in Appendix 2 to Appendix II below.

10. OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS

a. General elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1 October 2006) AS/Bur/AH BiH (2006) 4

*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 the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1 October 2006) (document AS/Bur/BiH (2006)4). He began by outlining the political context in which the elections had been held and then focused on a specific point concerning the practical aspects of the observation exercise. He regretted that observers tended to want to stay in the capital and were unwilling to travel elsewhere in the country.

The **President** said that, on this very point, the Bureau had adopted a new paragraph 10 xiii for the guidelines for observation of elections by the Assembly at its meeting on the previous day.

The Standing Committee **took note** of the report (Doc. 11101).

b. Constitutional Referendum in Serbia (28-29 October 2006) AS/Bur/AH Ser (2006) 3

*Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Mr Alexander Fomenko (Russia, UEL)*

In Mr Fomenko's absence, **Mr Sahlberg** presented the report on the referendum on constitutional reform in Serbia held on 28 and 29 October 2006 (document AS/Bur/AH Ser (2006) 3). The Parliamentary Assembly had been the only international institution on hand to observe the referendum. The committee had noted a number of points, particularly regarding the lack of transparency in the process of deliberating on the constitution, the lack of any effective public awareness campaign, voter apathy etc. It had also made its views known to the authorities on the running of voting and requested them to remedy the anomalies observed by the next elections, particularly regarding ballot boxes and polling booths, as well as the quality of voter lists.

The Standing Committee **took note** of the report (Doc. 11102).

11. CURRENT AFFAIRS DEBATE OR DEBATE UNDER URGENT PROCEDURE

None.

12. POLITICAL AFFAIRS

a. Need for a greater transparency in the arms trade Doc 11079

Doc. 11080
Amendment

*Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee:
Mrs Carina Ohlsson (Sweden, SOC)*

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (for opinion):
Mrs Majlène Westerlund Panke (Sweden, SOC)*

Mrs Ohlsson presented the report "Need for a greater transparency in the arms trade" (Doc. 11079). The arms trade remained a secretive business. Little information was available on the situation in each country, making the task of identifying which arms had been exported where and to which end users difficult. Greater

transparency in the arms trade was fundamental to ensuring good governance and preventing human rights abuses and violent conflicts.

In Mrs Westerlund Panke's absence, **Mrs Cliveti** presented the opinion of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (Doc.11080).

Amendment No. 1, moved by **Mrs Cliveti** on behalf of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and backed by **Mrs Ohlsson**, was **adopted**.

The **President** put to the vote the entire draft resolution set out in Doc. 11079 as amended, which was **adopted** unanimously (Resolution 1524 (2006)).

b. The establishment of a Stability Pact for the South Caucasus

Doc. 11082
Amendments

*Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee:
Mr Adrian Severin (Romania, SOC)*

Mr Severin presented the report on "the establishment of a Stability Pact for the South Caucasus", (Doc. 11082). He was convinced that a future regional strategy of cooperation and integration in the South Caucasus defined by all those concerned and facilitated by the international community would contribute greatly to a successful outcome to the political process aimed at settling the conflict in the region. He stressed the primordial need to overcome the controversies and establish a coherent concept of regional cooperation. The region's political stability was at stake. There could be no sustainable integration of the countries concerned in Euro-Atlantic or other structures without there first being a prospect of a regional cooperation strategy.

Mr Seyidov praised the rapporteur's commendable efforts and thought that it was high time to look to the future. However, he thought that some of the proposals were utopia. How could a stability pact be implemented and solid cooperation built between countries without first having a political settlement to the conflicts in the region - Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, Ossetia?

Mr Bokeria shared Mr Seyidov's doubts. The conflicts had to be resolved first before speaking of economic and monetary union. As for integration in a Euro-Atlantic union, this was a national priority for Georgia.

Mr Torosyan thought that the report was a very good document containing excellent ideas to promote cooperation between the three countries concerned. There was nothing utopian about the proposed approach, as it was by sharing the same aims, respecting the same principles and values, that it was possible to share common interests and, in this way, resolve conflicts.

Mr Lintner also commented on the report.

Mr Severin noted that no one was against the idea of a stability pact and welcomed the fact. The implementation of a stability pact for the South Caucasus region would come in due course. For the time being, the Assembly was asking the international community to consider it.

Mr Ateş, Chair of the Political Affairs Committee, observed that dreams or utopia always became reality in the end. Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference was already a priority and had to be implemented

The **President** said that two amendments to the draft resolution had been tabled.

Mr Bokeria moved amendment No. 1, which was opposed by **Mr Severin**. **Mr Ateş** said that the amendment had been rejected by the Political Affairs Committee.

Mr Seyidov moved an oral sub-amendment, which he withdrew following statements by **MM Severin and Ateş**.

Amendment No. 1 was **rejected**.

Mr Bokeria moved amendment No. 2. **Mr Severin** opposed the amendment, and **Mr Ateş** said that the Political Affairs Committee had expressed its opposition to the amendment.

Amendment No. 2 was **rejected**.

The **President** put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole set out in Doc. 11082, which was **adopted** (Resolution 1525 (2006)).

The **President** put to the vote the draft recommendation set out in Doc. 11082, which was **adopted** (Recommendation 1771 (2006)).

Mr van der Linden, President of the Assembly, returned to the chair.

c. Situation in Kazakhstan and its relations with the Council of Europe

Doc. 11007
Amendment

Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee:
Mr Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC)

Mr Iwiński presented the report on the “situation in Kazakhstan and its relations with the Council of Europe” (Doc. 11007), setting out proposals for the authorities of Kazakhstan on securing progress in democratic reforms. Kazakhstan had made advances in the setting up of democratic institutions and intended to press on with reforms. Even so, there had been some alarming developments in the situation of the political opposition. It was important, therefore, to foster more cooperation with that country.

For **Mr Eörsi**, the situation in Kazakhstan could be criticised in more ways than one, be it for the muzzling of the political opposition or media censorship. What could the Council of Europe expect from a country that respected neither democracy nor human rights? There were numerous political arguments against granting Kazakhstan any kind of status whatsoever with the Organisation. The Council of Europe must not lower its standards. That was why he was proposing, in an amendment, to delete paragraph 14 of the draft resolution. He fully backed the idea of stepping up cooperation with Kazakhstan but the wrong message must not be sent out.

Mr Holovaty fully agreed. He noted that Kazakhstan was not a signatory to the Charter of Paris and therefore did not meet one of the criteria stipulated in rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure on special guest status.

Mr Van den Brande noted that there was a clear consensus on the situation of the political opposition in Kazakhstan. Where special guest status was concerned, it was obvious that if the real situation was taken into account he had no choice but to back the proposed amendment.

Mr Schieder thought that the report should not be given over to an interpretation of the Rules of Procedure. If members continued to argue that it should, the matter would have to be referred to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities. **Mr Elo** agreed.

Mr Seyidov fully endorsed the report and the proposal to grant Kazakhstan special guest status. Kazakhstan had made considerable progress to bring itself closer to European standards.

Mr Ateş thought that respect for democracy, the Rule of law and human rights did not stop at the frontiers of Europe. Relations with Kazakhstan should be fostered, without ruling out observer status for example. Kazakhstan had great hopes riding on its relations with the Council.

Mr Einarsson acknowledged that Kazakhstan had made progress. However, this country could not be expected to be on a par with a Council of Europe member State. He did not think that observer status was appropriate in this case.

Mr Sultanov, member of the Kazakhstan Senate, thanked the President for giving him the opportunity to address the Standing Committee. Kazakhstan was a democracy, with 12 political parties. The country had no political censorship. He feared that the members had been misinformed of the true situation in his country.

Mr Iwiński replied to the statements made.

Mr Ateş, Chair of the Political Affairs Committee, called on the members to take an open and constructive attitude.

The President put the amendment moved by Mr Eörsi and others to the vote. The amendment was **accepted**.

The President put the oral amendment moved by **Mr Iwiński** to the vote. **Mr Eörsi** opposed it.

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

Mr Eörsi moved a procedural motion that the report be referred back to committee, in accordance with rule 37.1. *d.* of the Rules of Procedure. The motion was **rejected** following a vote.

The President put to the vote the entire draft resolution set out in Doc. 11007, as amended, which was **adopted** (Resolution 1526 (2006)).

13. LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

a. Rights of national minorities in Latvia

Doc. 11094
Amendments

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:
Mr Adrian Severin (Romania, SOC)*

Mr Severin presented the report on the “rights of national minorities in Latvia” (Doc. 11094), stressing that he had heard all the parties involved and been at pains to take a pragmatic, open approach and steer a middle course. Above all, he had striven to convince them all of the need to strengthen proper political dialogue in order to resolve these questions. Any radical stance or pressure could only block the process a little more. He hoped that the report would be useful not only for Latvia but also for the Council of Europe in its approach to the issue of minorities.

Mr Cilevičs pointed out that the request to postpone discussion of the report lodged when adopting the present meeting agenda did not reflect the views of all the members of the Latvian parliamentary delegation. Substantial progress had indeed been made but serious problems remained. It was vital that the Council of Europe send a very clear message to the Latvian authorities where the situation of minorities in that country was concerned. He congratulated the rapporteur, who had taken a constructive and balanced approach and whose proposals formed a good compromise that would be useful for developing human rights and democracy in Latvia.

Mrs Circene outlined the situation of minorities in her country. It was clear that certain questions required further discussion in Latvia and improvements could be made in certain areas. She presented some amendments, intended to redress the balance of the draft resolution on fundamental points, so that the true situation was more accurately reflected.

Mr Severin replied to the statements.

Mr Jurgens, first vice-chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, reiterated that the rapporteur had taken the time needed to prepare a comprehensive, high-quality report and the committee had examined all the arguments of the parties involved at its meetings.

The President said that four amendments to the draft resolution had been tabled.

Mrs Circene moved amendments Nos. 3 and 2, which **Mr Severin** found acceptable as a compromise and which were **adopted**.

Mrs Circene moved amendment No. 4. **Mr Severin** thought this an acceptable compromise. **Mr Jurgens** reminded the members that this amendment had been rejected by the committee when it had adopted the text. **Mr Grebennikov** moved an oral sub-amendment, which was **rejected**. Amendment No. 4 was **adopted**.

Mr Cilevičs moved amendment No. 1. **Mr Severin** was against, and **Mr Jurgens** reminded the members that this amendment had also been rejected by the committee when it had adopted the text. Amendment No. 1 was **rejected**.

The President put to the vote the entire draft resolution set out in Doc. 11094 as amended, which was **adopted** unanimously (Resolution 1527 (2006)).

The President put to the vote the draft recommendation set out in Doc. 11094, which was **adopted** (Recommendation 1772 (2006)).

b. The 2003 guidelines on the use of minority languages in the broadcast media and the Council of Europe standards: need to enhance cooperation and synergy with the OSCE

Doc. 11030

Doc. 11081

Amendments

Rapporteur

Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC)

Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education (for opinion):

Mr Pär-Axel Sahlberg (Sweden, SOC)

Mr Cilevičs presented the report on “the 2003 guidelines on the use of minority languages in the broadcast media and the Council of Europe standards: need to enhance cooperation and synergy with the OSCE” (Doc. 11030). Linguistic diversity in the media was a key vector in preserving and developing minorities' own identities as much as it was a source of vital information for those belonging to minorities. The guidelines were intended to encourage and facilitate the adoption of specific measures by States and set out detailed criteria to be taken on board by all the players concerned in the broadcasting sector. It was crucial to promote standards in this area, especially as there was no controversy over them and the approaches taken by the two organisations – Council of Europe and OSCE – complemented each other perfectly.

Mr Sahlberg presented the opinion of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education (Doc. 11081). His committee was in total agreement with the committee tasked with the report; it intended to move some amendments aimed at making the text more precise.

The President said that eight amendments and four sub-amendments had been tabled for the draft recommendation.

Amendment No. 1 presented by **Mr Sahlberg**, on behalf of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, with **Mr Cilevičs** and **Mr Jurgens**, on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, in favour, was **adopted**.

Mr Sahlberg presented amendments No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 on behalf of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education.

Sub-amendment 1 to amendment No. 2, sub-amendment 1 to amendment No. 3, sub-amendment 1 to amendment No. 4 and sub-amendment 1 to amendment No. 5, moved by **Mr Jurgens** on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, of which **Mr Cilevičs** was in favour, were **accepted**.

Amendments No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5, thus sub-amended, were **adopted**.

Mr Sahlberg moved amendment No. 6. **Mr Cilevičs** was against this amendment and **Mr Jurgens**, on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, was also against. Amendment No. 6 was **rejected**.

Amendment No. 8, moved by **Mr Sahlberg** and on which **Mr Cilevičs** and **Mr Jurgens** expressed a favourable opinion, was **adopted**.

Amendment No. 7, moved by **Mr Sahlberg** and which **Mr Cilevičs** and **Mr Jurgens** were against, was **rejected**.

The President put to the vote the draft recommendation set out in Doc. 11030, which was **adopted** unanimously as amended (Recommendation 1773 (2006))

14. MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND POPULATION

The Turkish presence in Europe: migrant workers and new European citizens

Doc. 11083

Doc. 11097

Amendments

Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population:

Mr Ali Rıza Gülçiçek (Turkey, SOC)

Rapporteur of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs (for opinion):

Mrs Fatma Pehlivan (Belgium, SOC)

Mr Gülçiçek presented the report “The Turkish presence in Europe: migrant workers and new European citizens” (Doc. 11083). Communities descended from Turkish migrants formed a sizeable percentage of the population of certain European countries. Bilateral agreements had been concluded between States, for example between Turkey and Germany. The level of integration of those communities had been a subject of controversy. Integration was a two-way process, demanding efforts from both the host society and the immigrant community. However, these communities encountered various problems. They suffered unequal treatment and social and economic discrimination, particularly at work, but also in the educational and cultural spheres.

Mrs Pehlivan presented the opinion of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs (Doc. 11097). She congratulated the rapporteur on his report, which struck a strong chord with her owing to her family history and personal background. It was evident that Turkish immigrant communities suffered discrimination, particularly on the labour market but they were also disadvantaged by a very low level of education. She presented several amendments to the draft recommendation, chiefly catering for the need to foster the economic and social integration of those communities.

Mr Iwiński spoke briefly on behalf of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population in support of the report.

The President said that ten amendments to the draft recommendation were being tabled by the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs.

Mrs Pehlivan moved amendment No. 1. **Mr Gülçiçek** was in favour. **Mr Iwiński** moved an oral sub-amendment to which **Mrs Pehlivan** was opposed. The oral sub-amendment was **accepted** and amendment No. 1 as sub-amended was **adopted**.

The President said that, as a result, amendment No. 2 was automatically **adopted**.

Mrs Pehlivan moved amendments No. 3 and No. 4. **Mr Gülçiçek** and **Mr Iwiński** were in favour. Amendments No. 3 and No. 4 were **adopted**.

Mrs Pehlivan moved amendment No. 5. **Mr Gülçiçek** was opposed to the amendment, as was **Mr Iwiński**. Amendment No. 5 was **rejected**.

Mrs Pehlivan moved amendments No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8. **Mr Gülçiçek**, and then **Mr Iwiński**, spoke in favour. Amendments No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8 were **adopted**.

Mrs Pehlivan moved amendment No. 9. **Mr Gülçiçek** was in favour. **Mr Iwiński** moved an oral sub-amendment, which was opposed by **Mrs Pehlivan**. The oral sub-amendment was **rejected**. Amendment No. 9 was **adopted**.

Mrs Pehlivan moved amendment No. 10. **Mr Gülçiçek** and **Mr Iwiński** were in favour. Amendment No. 10 was **adopted**.

The President put to the vote the draft recommendation set out in Doc. 11083, which was **adopted** unanimously as amended (Recommendation 1774 (2006)).

15. CULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

a. Student disaffection for scientific studies

Doc. 10949

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education:
Mr Guy Lengagne (France, SOC)*

Mr Lengagne presented the report on “Student disaffection for scientific studies” (Doc. 10949). The number of students in the science disciplines was declining significantly everywhere in Europe. It was crucial to remedy this alarming situation. Europe was not adequately equipped to face the challenge from countries like China. There had to be a proactive policy of upgrading scientific careers and enhancing the image of scientists on the one hand and encouraging young people, particularly girls, to take up scientific careers on the other hand. It was the economy of European countries and, beyond that, the future balance of our societies that were at stake.

The President warmly thanked the rapporteur for his contribution to a vital topic. He put to the vote the draft resolution set out in Doc. 10949, which was **adopted** unanimously (Resolution 1528 (2006)).

b. Situation of Finno-Ugric and Samoyed peoples

Doc. 11087

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education:
Mrs Katrin Saks (Estonia, SOC)*

Mrs Saks presented the report on the "situation of Finno-Ugric and Samoyed peoples" (Doc. 11087). Developments since the adoption of the Assembly's Resolution 1171 (1998) on endangered Uralic minority cultures had been worrying. The recommendations made by the Assembly in 1998 had gone unheeded and no measures had been taken by the countries where the linguistic minorities concerned lived, first and foremost the Russian Federation. Their situation had further deteriorated. Certain groups had quite simply disappeared while others had declined, and there had been an overall decline in their culture and the use of their native language. On paper the legislation was positive but it was not put into practice. This was flagrant where the education system and the learning of native languages were concerned. The "folklorisation" of these minorities was a counter-productive trend. The Russian Federation had to be reminded of its commitments in this area.

The President fully backed the rapporteur. He put to the vote the draft recommendation set out in Doc. 11087, which was **adopted** unanimously (Recommendation 1775 (2006)).

16. ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

a. Seal hunting

Doc. 11008
Amendments

*Rapporteur of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local
and Regional Affairs:
Mr Pasquale Nessa (Italy, EPP/CD)*

Mr Nessa presented the report on "Seal hunting" (Doc. 11008). This was an important report arrived at after lengthy reflection by the committee on a subject surrounded by international controversy, namely the protection of young seals and marine mammals, on which world public opinion was extremely sensitive. The committee had taken a global approach, tailored to the need to ensure effective protection of animal species and the maintaining of populations of seals and other marine mammals and to pursue such a conservation policy as part of an overall approach geared to the sustainable management of the natural heritage and the protection of wildlife. It had also taken the view that hunting conditions had to be revised so that cruel methods not guaranteeing the instantaneous death, without suffering, of the animals were banned.

Mr Schmied, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, emphasised the importance of the work carried out by the committee and the need to support the draft recommendation without adulterating it with amendments. The report was the fruit of long discussion and reflected a balanced view of the issue. Any emotive approach was to be avoided.

The President said that seven amendments to the draft recommendation were being moved.

Mr Nessa moved amendment No. 7. **Mr Schmied**, on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, was against. Amendment No. 7 was **adopted**.

Mr Azzolini moved amendments No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6. **Mr Schmied**, on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, stated that he was unequivocally against and again called on the members to reject any amendment so that the compromise laboriously arrived at by the committee would be respected.

Amendments No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 were **adopted**.

The President put to the vote the draft recommendation set out in Doc. 11008, which was **adopted** unanimously as amended (Recommendation 1776 (2006)).

b. Towards responsible food consumption

Doc. 11010

*Rapporteur of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs:
Mr Renzo Gubert (Italy, EPP/CD)*

Postponed.

17. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN**Sexual assaults linked to “date-rape drugs”**

Doc. 11038
Doc. 11096
Amendments

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for women and men:
Mrs Maria Damanaki (Greece, SOC)
Rapporteur of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs (for opinion):
Mrs Lajla Pernaska (Albania, EPP/CD)*

Postponed.

18. RULES OF PROCEDURE AND IMMUNITIES**Open and transparent voting in the Parliamentary Assembly**

Doc. 11076

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

Mr Cebeci presented the report on “Open and transparent voting in the Parliamentary Assembly” (Doc. 11076), prepared within the framework of the follow-up given to the decisions taken at the Warsaw Summit. Greater transparency was required in the decisions taken within the Organisation. The Assembly's current practice was not compatible with the need for increased transparency. The electronic means available to it made it possible to move towards accountability of parliamentarians. Making the details of voting public, in terms of both results and individual votes cast, with parliamentarians explaining why they had voted in a given way, met the need for transparency.

Mr Einarsson, third vice-chair of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, asked the Standing Committee to give its full support to this excellent report and the reforms it contained.

The President put to the vote the draft resolution set out in Doc. 11076, which was **adopted** unanimously (Resolution 1529 (2006)).

19. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

20. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Standing Committee **confirmed** that the next meeting would be held in Paris on Friday 16 March 2007.

The meeting **rose** at 1.30 p.m.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr	van der LINDEN, René	Netherlands
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Vice-Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr	JURGENS, Erik	Netherlands
Mr	SCHREINER, Bernard	France
Mrs	PAPADIMITRIOU, Elsa	Greece
Mr	HÖRSTER, Joachim	Germany
Mr	SZABÓ, Zoltán	Hungary
Mr	PREDA, Cezar Florin	Romania
Mr	GARDETTO, Jean-Charles	Monaco
Mr	BOKERIA, Giorgi	Georgia
Mr	HOLOVATY, Serhiy	Ukraine
Mr	RIGONI, Andrea	Italy

Chairpersons of Political Groups

Mr	de PUIG, Lluís Maria	Socialist Group
Mr	Van den BRANDE, Luc	Group of the European People's Party
Mr	EÖRSI, Mátyás	Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
Mr	EINARSSON, Mats	Group of the Unified European Left

Chairpersons of national delegations

Mr	BARTUMEU CASSANY Jaume (for M. FARRÉ SANTURÉ)	Andorra
Mr	TOROSYAN, Tigran	Armenia
Mr	SEYIDOV, Samad	Azerbaijan
Mr	LOUTFI, Younal	Bulgaria
Mr	KYPRIANOU, Andros	Cyprus
Mr	MIHKELSON, Marko	Estonia
Mr	ELO, Mikko	Finland
Mr	SCHREINER, Bernard	France
Mr	BOKERIA, Giorgi	Georgia
Mr	HÖRSTER, Joachim	Germany
Mrs	PAPADIMITRIOU, Elsa	Greece
Mr	SZABÓ, Zoltán	Hungary
Mr	RIGONI, Andrea	Italy
Mrs	CIRCENE Ingrida (for Mr Bērziņš)	Latvia
Mrs	VĖSAITĖ, Birutė	Lithuania
Mr	GARDETTO, Jean-Charles	Monaco

Mr	DEES, Dirk	Netherlands
Mr	GREBENNIKOV Valery (for Mr Kosachev)	Russia
Mr	CHIARUZZI, Mauro	San Marino
Mr	ALIGRUDIĆ, Miloš	Serbia
Mr	ZALA, Boris	Slovakia
Mr	de PUIG, Lluís Maria	Spain
Mrs	OHLSSON, Carina	Sweden
Mr	SHYBKO, Vitaliy	Ukraine

Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee

Mr	ATEŞ, Abdülkadir	Turkey
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Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Mr	JURGENS, Erik (for Mr Marty)	Netherlands
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Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development

Mrs	PAPADOPOULOS, Antigoni (for Mr Kirilov)	Cyprus
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Chairperson of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

Mrs	BARGHOLTZ, Helena (for Mr Glesener)	Sweden
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Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population

Mr	IWIŃSKI, Tadeusz (for Mr Çavuşoğlu)	Poland
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Chairperson of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

Mr	SCHMIED, Walter	Switzerland
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Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

Mrs	CLIVETI, Minodora	Romania
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Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities

Mr	EINARSSON, Mats (for Mr Gross)	Sweden
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Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Mr	LINTNER, Eduard	Germany
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Rapporteurs (not members of the Standing Committee) :

Mr CEBECI Erol Aslan	Turkey
Mr CILEVIČS Boriss	Latvia
Mrs DAMANAKI Maria	Greece
Mr GÜLÇİÇEK Ali Riza	Turkey
Mr IWŃSKI, Tadeusz	Poland
Mr LENGAGNE Guy	France
Mr NESSA Pasquale	Italy
Mrs PEHLIVAN Fatma	Belgium
Lord RUSSELL-JOHNSTON	United Kingdom
Mr SAHLBERG Pär-Axel (Rapporteur and for Mr Fomenko)	Sweden
Mrs SAKS Katrin	Estonia
Mr SEVERIN Adrian	Romania
Mr SKANDALAKIS Panagiotis	Greece

Also present:**Members of the Parliamentary Assembly:**

Mr ALAY FERRER Vicenç	Andorra
Mr AZZOLINI Claudio	Italy
Mrs MELONI Assunta	San Marino
Mr SCHIEDER Peter	Austria

Invited Guest

Mr STOLFI Fiorenzo, Secretary of State for Foreign and Political Affairs and for Economic Programming of San Marino, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers

Others:**Kazakhstan**

Mrs JOLDASBAYEVA Nurlygaim, Senate of Kazakhstan
 Mr KOSMAMBETOV Tulebek, Mazhilis of Kazakhstan
 Mrs RYSSYMBETOVA Lyazzat, Senate of Kazakhstan
 Mr SARSENOV Nurdaulet, Mazhilis of Kazakhstan
 Mr SULTANOV Kuanysh, Senate of Kazakhstan

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr SORINAS Mateo, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr SAWICKI Wojciech, Director of the General services of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr TORBIÖRN Kjell, Head of the Office of the Secretary General and Head of Secretariat of the Bureau of the Assembly

Mr SICH Petr, Head of the Private Office of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mrs CLAMER Valérie, Secretary of the Standing Committee

Ms ALLEON Alexandra, Assistant to the Secretary General, Co-Secretary of the Bureau

Council of Europe

Mrs DE BOER-BUQUICCHIO Maud, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mrs PAULUS Mireille, Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Ministers

Mr ADELSBACH Markus, Advisor, Private Office of the Secretary General and of the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

APPENDIX II

SYNOPSIS

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 17 November 2006 in San Marino with Mr van der Linden, President of the Assembly, and Mr Jurgens, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the chair:

- adopted a Declaration on "Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women", ahead of the launching of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (Madrid, 27 November 2006) (see Appendix I);
- held an exchange of views with Mr Fiorenzo Stolfi, Secretary of State for Foreign and Political Affairs and for Economic Programming of San Marino, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers;
- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Denmark and Romania;
- ratified the changes in the composition of general Assembly committees in respect of the delegations of Denmark, Georgia, Portugal and Ukraine;
- ratified the references and modification of reference proposed by the Bureau which are contained in Appendix II hereafter;
- held exchanges of views on the basis of reports by the *Ad Hoc* Committees of the Bureau on the observation of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1 October 2006) (rapporteur Lord Russell-Johnston, United Kingdom, ALDE) and on the observation of the referendum on the constitutional reform in Serbia (28-29 October 2006) (rapporteur: Mr Fomenko, Russian Federation, UEL);
- adopted, on behalf of the Assembly, the following texts:

Resolution 1524 (2006)	Need for a greater transparency in the arms trade;
Resolution 1525 (2006)	The establishment of a Stability Pact for the South Caucasus;
Resolution 1526(2006)	Situation in Kazakhstan and its relations with the Council of Europe;
Resolution 1527 (2006)	Rights of national minorities in Latvia;
Resolution 1528 (2006)	Student disaffection for scientific studies;
Resolution 1529 (2006)	Open and transparent voting in the Parliamentary Assembly;
Recommendation 1771 (2006)	The establishment of a Stability Pact for the South Caucasus;
Recommendation 1772 (2006)	Rights of national minorities in Latvia;
Recommendation 1773 (2006)	The 2003 guidelines on the use of minority languages in the broadcast media and the Council of Europe standards: need to enhance co-operation and synergy with the OSCE;
Recommendation 1774 (2006)	The Turkish presence in Europe: migrant workers and new European citizens;
Recommendation 1775 (2006)	Situation of Finno-Ugric and Samoyed peoples;
Recommendation 1776 (2006)	Seal hunting;

- postponed the consideration of the reports on "Towards responsible food consumption" and "Sexual assaults linked to "date-rape drugs"";
- confirmed that the next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in Paris on Friday 16 March 2007.

APPENDIX 1

Declaration on "Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women"

1. Domestic violence against women is a serious assault on women's dignity which no Council of Europe member state should tolerate.
2. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, committed to defending human rights, publicly and unequivocally condemns domestic violence. Such violence is the result of an unequal relationship between women and men which it also perpetuates. Domestic violence is not geographically circumscribed, is not limited to certain age groups or linked to ethnic origin. It occurs in every kind of family relationship and in all social strata.
3. The cost of domestic violence to society is high. There is the personal and social cost for the women who live a terrible nightmare and who experience constant fear and anxiety. In addition, there is the huge financial cost to society in general, which shoulders the burden of health care, protection, legal and policing costs. And there is a political cost when democratic societies are incapable of protecting women from domestic violence which is a frontal attack on their physical integrity and their human dignity.
4. The Parliamentary Assembly is convinced that combating domestic violence against women will help to build a fairer society where the fundamental rights of all, men and women alike, are respected.
5. In this context, the Parliamentary Assembly affirms that combating domestic violence against women must be a priority for member states. The Assembly calls upon the member states to assume fully their responsibilities and to take all necessary measures to end this violence. The Assembly pledges its support for, and will contribute to, the Council of Europe's campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence. The campaign will be launched in Madrid (Spain) on 27 November 2006. The Assembly reiterates its appeal to national parliaments to implement the project entitled "Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women", to make the fight against domestic violence a priority theme of their work and thereby to contribute to the Council of Europe Campaign, by all parliamentary means at their disposal.

APPENDIX 2

Decisions on documents tabled for reference to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

Reference No. 3284 **Doc. 11051**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Schmied and others
The budget of the Council of Europe

Reference to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, for report.

Reference No. 3285 **Doc. 11059**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Pirozhnikova and others
Promoting ecological tourism, developing protected areas and unique
natural objects for the purpose of realising the human right to a safe and
healthy leisure

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

B. EXTENSION OF REFERENCE

Doc. 10344
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bilgehan and others
Respect for the principle of equality in civil law
Ref. No. 3026 of 23 November 2004 – Validity: 23 November 2006

Extension until 26 January 2007.

C. MODIFICATION OF REFERENCE

Reference No. 3286 **Doc. 10987**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marquet and others
Paediatric medicines in Europe
Ref. No. 3267 of 2 October 2006

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

APPENDIX III**ADDRESS BY H. E. MR FIORENZO STOLFI,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Following a very recent legislative reform, San Marino Parliamentarians appointed to a Government position shall lose their parliamentary status throughout their ministerial mandate. This is my present situation. However, being a politician of long-experience, I must recognise that I feel "at home" before this meeting, as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is the common house of the representatives of all Parliaments and of all political forces of European Countries.

The slogan of the Council of Europe Campaign against racism and intolerance, "All different – All equal", finds its highest expression in this very parliamentary seat. You represent different countries, with different institutional, political, social and economic systems. You belong to political groups which are different on account of their past and recent history, their ideas and their projects. At the same time, you are all parliamentarians of Europe, sharing the same faith in democracy, the same respect for the rule of law and its rules, the same commitment towards the affirmation and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals and communities.

In my position as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of San Marino and as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which I took over less than 48 hours ago, I am particularly honoured to welcome you to the most ancient and smallest Republic in Europe, and I wish you all a fruitful and interesting "San Marino meeting".

Mr President,

It gives me great pleasure to present to this meeting of the Standing Committee the objectives identified by the San Marino Government for its six-month Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

First of all, I wish to underline the perfect continuity between the San Marino Chairmanship and the preceding ones, following the path traced by the Warsaw Summit. Indeed, implementing the decisions adopted by the Heads of State and Government in May 2005 remains the fundamental commitment of all member States.

This is clearly indicated in the programme of the San Marino Chairmanship contained in document CM/Inf(2006)48, copy of which has been given to you. On this occasion, I will make some general remarks on this document and I will briefly focus on the three specific priorities we have indicated for the activities of our six-month Chairmanship.

It is evident, even to a superficial observer, that Europe has changed radically compared to the geopolitical balances decided shortly after the Second World War. Now that the Cold War and the political, economic and military tensions between Eastern and Western Europe are over, today's challenges we have to face are also very demanding and complex.

In a very short period of time, Central and Eastern European Countries have undergone, and are still undergoing, a transition from a strictly planned economy, in the context of totalitarian and dictatorial regimes, to free market and democracy. In some cases, the social repercussions of this transition, although outstanding, are extremely serious. However, the transition has never been totally painless.

Very recently, and in places not far from us, some European areas have been affected by cruel and fratricidal wars, including atrocious ethnic cleansing. At the end of the 20th century, the cry "Never again!", which had echoed across a Europe wounded and devastated by war and the Holocaust, came again, with overbearance, to our consciences of free men and women when confronted with the terrifying television images reaching into our homes.

Equally terrifying are the images of the many, too many, desperate people from the Southern areas of the world trying, by any means, to reach our countries in search of a job and a future for themselves and their families.

Let me also recall the terrible threat to individual and collective freedom posed by terrorism and the numerous innocent victims of this barbaric criminal violence.

Europe and the international community have not remained indifferent or unmoved before these serious problems. At a global level, the Council of Europe was at the forefront in meeting the needs of a constantly changing reality, although with great difficulties and some contradictory uncertainties.

The oldest paneuropean organisation upholds the values and principles which are rooted in our common history and in the collective conscience. Now more than ever, these values and principles are topical and represent the foundation for the building of a "common European house".

In order to build a peace based on justice and international cooperation and to preserve the European ideals of individual freedom, political freedom and respect for democracy, we believe that – and this is also among the priorities of the programme of the San Marino Chairmanship – today's European societies, which are increasingly multiethnic, multicultural and multireligious, must promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

The initiatives taken by previous chairmanships, and in particular the preparation in Faro (Portugal) in October 2005 of a global strategy for the Council of Europe's work in the field of intercultural dialogue, form a sound basis for future progress. In this context, the San Marino Chairmanship follows with interest not only the development of the White Paper on intercultural dialogue, but also the debate started on the religious dimension subsequent to the seminars organised by the Commissioner for Human Rights and, most recently, the "Volga Forum" held last September. In this regard, the Chairmanship intends to organise in San Marino, in April 2007, a further meeting for such dialogue to be continued and deepened.

Moreover, we strongly support the "All different – All equal" Campaign, in the awareness that, to protect new generations from intolerance, discrimination and hatred, it is necessary to educate the young not to be indifferent towards differences.

The second priority of our Chairmanship is protection and development of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular through a strengthened effectiveness of the control system of the European Convention on Human Rights.

This is perhaps the most demanding challenge now being faced by the Council of Europe. The European Convention on Human Rights has created a mechanism effectively protecting human rights and freedoms, to which all individuals may have recourse whenever they deem that their rights have been violated. This mechanism, provided for with extreme farsightedness in the Convention and improved by the subsequent Protocols, has proved very successful. Today, however, despite the creation of the permanent single Court, the workload of judges has become too heavy and, most of all, waiting times have become too long for claimants.

The challenge is to increase the system's speed and smoothness, by maintaining its very high quality unaltered.

Protocol 14, which we hope will soon enter into force, will be an important instrument to face this challenge: the San Marino Chairmanship commits itself to working for a prompt and complete implementation of its rules.

We will study very carefully the report of the Group of Wise Persons, which has just been presented. Reviewing the follow-up to this report will be an opportunity to intensely and fruitfully continue the current debate on how to prevent the European Court of Human Rights from becoming, paradoxically, a victim of its own success.

The relevance of protecting women's rights and protecting children, two significant aspects of human rights, was stressed at the Warsaw Summit and the San Marino Chairmanship attaches great importance to these issues. The Council of Europe's efforts in these areas are essential to the development of effective political, cultural and legal solutions. We look with great interest both at the pan-European campaign to combat violence against women, to be launched in Madrid on 27 November next, and at the "Europe for and with children" Campaign.

The third priority of the San Marino Chairmanship is strengthening co-operation with the other International Organisations, with a view to fostering coherency in Europe's institutional architecture in order to increase co-operation and improve the efficiency of international action.

To guarantee complementarity and synergy among the main European Organisations, it is essential to strengthen practical co-operation in keeping with the specific fields of competence of the different organisations, while avoiding unnecessary duplications.

With regard to the relations with the European Union, based on the decisions of the Warsaw Summit and the negotiations held since then, the San Marino Chairmanship will commit itself to finalising the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union and will endeavour to ensure that the recommendations made by Mr Juncker in his report are followed up, while taking all existing needs and positions into account.

Also co-operation with the OSCE must continue on the basis of the Warsaw Summit to achieve concrete results, particularly in such priority areas as the fight against terrorism, protecting national minorities, combating human trafficking and fostering tolerance and non-discrimination, including intercultural dialogue.

The San Marino Chairmanship also undertakes to strengthen co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations in order to promote the universal dimension of the values shared by the Council of Europe's member States, along the path taken jointly by the two Organisations for the affirmation and protection of human rights, democracy and rule of law.

Mr President,

As already underlined, the programme of the San Marino Chairmanship is described in greater detail in document CM/Inf(2006)48, to which I refer.

We have never pretended, and will never pretend, to develop a programme covering the entire wide-ranging spectrum of activities of the Council of Europe, which are all extremely important and carried out with competence and skill by the Secretariat and the member States. We believe that our role as Chairman is to indicate the sectors having a political priority, to which the Organisation should pay special attention. These are our priorities, on which I hope you will agree.