



Standing Committee
Commission permanente

AS/Per (2009) PV 03
22 January 2010

Standing Committee

Minutes¹

of the meeting held in Bern
on 20 November 2009

¹ Approved by the Assembly on 25 January 2010.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mr de Puig, President of the Assembly, opened the meeting at 9 am. He thanked the National Council and the Council of States of the Swiss Confederation for their invitation to hold the meeting of the Standing Committee in Bern and for their hospitality.

He reported on his most recent official visits, firstly to Turkey, which would take over the chairmanship of the Council of Europe in November 2010 and would have to deal with a number of political challenges, then to Ukraine, where the turbulent political situation called for democratic refocusing, and, lastly, to Japan, where he had found a climate conducive to closer co-operation with the Council of Europe. The abolition of the death penalty had been the leitmotiv of all his talks with his Japanese hosts. The existence of an abolitionist movement in the Diet and in civil society was an encouraging sign. In contrast, the Parliamentary Assembly's efforts in relation to Belarus had not borne fruit and the authorities' lack of genuine political will to move towards democracy was most unfortunate.

2. WELCOME ADDRESS BY MS CHIARA SIMONESCHI-CORTESI, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

The President welcomed Ms Simoneschi-Cortesi, President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation, and praised the Swiss parliament's fruitful co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly and the parliamentary delegation's decades-long active involvement in the activities and work of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Ms Simoneschi-Cortesi, President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation, welcomed the Standing Committee to the parliament, which was housed in a recently renovated historic building. The Parliamentary Assembly was all the more important to Switzerland as a forum for dialogue since the country was not a member of the European Union. Political dialogue was vital in today's Europe, at both national and regional level. The Council of Europe had played a central part in the practical construction of Europe as a political entity by opening the doors of the European family to the states of central and eastern Europe. The Council had made a major contribution in establishing a system of fundamental values that was vital to the development of an area of peace and freedom throughout Europe. The European Convention on Human Rights was clearly the greatest achievement here. For 800 million Europeans, the Court was the ultimate guarantor of those fundamental values. The future of the human rights protection system in Europe depended on the Court's effectiveness being increased, while its resources were strengthened. Full credit for Europe's progress towards respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law should go to the Council of Europe. Switzerland shared these same fundamental values, which were the basis of the country's relations, both internally and internationally. Swiss democracy remained a model worldwide for many countries seeking solutions to the current challenges.

The President warmly thanked Ms Simoneschi-Cortesi for her speech.

3. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MS MICHELINE CALMY-REY, FEDERAL COUNCILLOR, HEAD OF THE SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

CM/Inf(2009)48

CM/Inf(2009)49

The President welcomed Ms Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation. The documents setting out the priorities of the Swiss chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and the report of the outgoing Slovenian chairmanship were in the files. The President assured the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Assembly's unreserved support with the achievement of the priorities of the Swiss chairmanship. He praised the outstanding co-operation between the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly, which had enabled the issue of the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to be resolved, and thanked Ms Calmy-Rey for her personal involvement, in conjunction with the Slovenian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the matter.

Ms Calmy-Rey began by going over the history of the relations between the Council of Europe and Switzerland. After the Second World War, it had been thought that Swiss neutrality was incompatible with membership of an international organisation of a political nature. It was only in 1963, 14 years after the Council of Europe had been founded, that Switzerland had decided to join the organisation, following an

initiative by the Swiss parliament. The last time that Switzerland had chaired the Committee of Ministers, from November 1991 to May 1992, the European continent had just gone through a period of upheaval, to which the Swiss chairmanship had chosen to respond with an inclusive approach, which had led to today's pan-European organisation. Since then, Switzerland's commitment to the Council of Europe had increased, no doubt because the Council of Europe defended the values which were central to the Swiss political system: human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democracy.

The rule of law was a key aspect of the way politics was conceived. Power had to be limited by the law, not the reverse. With over 200 conventions, the Council of Europe made a vital contribution to establishing an area of law throughout the European continent. Together with the European Convention on Human Rights as the cornerstone, these conventions formed the basis of a "European public order".

With 47 member states, the Council of Europe played an irreplaceable part in building a single Europe. Its method of intergovernmental co-operation was supplemented by a vital parliamentary dimension – the Assembly – and a regional and local dimension embodied by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, not forgetting civil society, which was represented through the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations. The entire diversity of the European continent was therefore represented in a single institution which operated remarkably well. No other organisation could claim to represent all Europeans more effectively, whether through their governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities or the associations they belonged to. However, it was not always easy to manage this diversity. It was only natural that differences existed and that sometimes lively discussions took place.

The Parliamentary Assembly played a vital part in the smooth functioning of the Council of Europe, to which it gave vital democratic legitimacy. With regard to the relations between the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly, it had become clear from the three meetings held during the summer between the representatives of the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly concerning the election procedure for the new Secretary General – in which she herself had taken part alongside the Slovenian Minister for Foreign Affairs – that the dialogue between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly needed to be improved. She had promised to ensure that the necessary decisions were taken to bring this about. The Assembly's spirit of co-operation and conciliation had enabled the new Secretary General to be elected on 29 September 2009. Switzerland would continue actively to seek new measures for dialogue and co-operation, in particular in the discussions on revising the rules and procedures for the election of the Secretary General, and would make sure that they were implemented.

20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the admission to the Council of Europe of Hungary as the first former Eastern Bloc country, Europe was now facing economic and political challenges of a different kind which were, however, no less serious, especially given the rapid pace of globalisation. The Council of Europe needed to place itself resolutely at the service of European citizens in order to move towards its prime objectives of promoting democracy, the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental rights and freedoms.

With regard to the priorities of the Committee of Ministers chairmanship, Switzerland intended focusing on three main areas: guaranteeing human rights protection and the rule of law, strengthening democratic institutions and increasing the Council of Europe's transparency and efficiency.

In the case of the protection of human rights and the rule of law, the main challenge to be taken up was clearly the future of the European Court of Human Rights. It was necessary to ensure that respect for the jurisdiction of the Court was upheld unflinchingly for all Europeans and to make sure that the European Convention on Human Rights was implemented in the member states, while national legislation was brought into line. The measures set out in Protocol 14 would not be enough to overcome the Court's difficulties in terms of processing applications, although the entry into force of the protocol would help to improve the situation in the short term. It was necessary to look beyond that, draw up a long-term strategy and set in motion the reforms needed to ensure the effectiveness and continued existence of the human rights protection system in Europe. That would be the task of the High-Level Conference on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights to be held in Interlaken on 18 and 19 February 2010. Three objectives had been identified and would have to be set out in a political declaration which could be adopted by the ministers in Interlaken. Firstly, the States Parties to the European Convention on Human Rights would have solemnly to reassert their commitment to the Convention system and make sure that they complied with the Convention and executed judgments concerning them. The states would be invited to implement appropriate national mechanisms to bring their domestic law and practice into line with the Convention and the case-law of the Court. Secondly, the States Parties to the Convention would have to offer the Court political support so that it could take measures to increase its efficiency of its own accord without the need for amendment of the Convention. Similarly, it was necessary to move forward with the accession of the

European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights in order to extend legal certainty throughout Europe. The Strasbourg Court would be the final arbiter for the protection of human rights. Thirdly, the foundations would have to be laid in Interlaken for more far-reaching reform of the Court. Interlaken would have to send out a strong and clear political signal. The draft Interlaken Declaration should be ready by the beginning of December and, from mid-December, the Swiss chairmanship would hold consultations open to all member states so that the broadest possible consensus could be achieved regarding the content of the declaration.

The human rights protection system still did not cover all Europeans. The Swiss chairmanship would therefore continue its predecessors' efforts with a view to closer ties with Belarus. In this connection, there was a need for co-ordination with the Assembly so that the efforts formed part of a common approach geared towards the future accession of the country, which was a member of the European family. There would have to be clear conditions for accession: Belarus would have to comply fully with the organisation's standards.

The second major strand of the Swiss chairmanship's priorities involved strengthening democratic institutions. Switzerland had a long tradition of participatory democracy and intended placing special emphasis on citizen-oriented democracy based on good governance at all levels. In this connection, a conference would be held jointly with the Venice Commission and the University of St Gallen on 3 and 4 May 2010 on the subject of democracy and decentralisation.

Lastly, the aim of the third strand of the Swiss chairmanship's priorities was to increase the Council of Europe's transparency and efficiency. The Council of Europe was marked by great institutional stability, with its pillars being formed by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Committee of Ministers, the Secretariat and the European Court of Human Rights, as had been the case 20 years ago. However, the number of members and, given their diversity, the range of expectations placed in it had increased substantially since then. At the same time, European co-operation had been taken forward in other forms, through the European Union. States, in particular non-members of the European Union, saw the Council of Europe as their main gateway to international standards which were vital for ensuring legal certainty for their inhabitants in a very wide range of areas. The Council of Europe's conventions were unrivalled legal frameworks for all states which were not set to join the European Union. The same was true for those for which the prospect of accession was not so close. The Swiss chairmanship did not wish to turn the Council of Europe upside down but, rather, intended doing everything it could to raise the organisation's profile in the areas that made up its core activities and secure sustainable funding for them and its operating expenditure. Co-ordination was needed here with the Assembly and the Secretary General, who would enjoy the full support of the Swiss chairmanship for all measures aimed at increasing the Council of Europe's efficiency.

Switzerland attached great importance to co-operation by the Council of Europe with other international organisations, in particular the OSCE and the European Union, in areas of common interest, and with the United Nations, in particular through a Council of Europe liaison office in Geneva, the establishment of which the Swiss chairmanship had promoted.

On a more political level, reference needed to be made to the obstacles facing the Council of Europe in promoting "European public order" in post-conflict zones or regions which had been affected by armed conflict over the last 20 years, most recently Georgia in August 2008. The consequences of that conflict had remained on the agenda of all meetings of the Ministers' Deputies throughout 2009. In July and October, the Secretary General had presented two successive reports on the human rights situation in the areas affected by the conflict, and a fresh review of the action taken by the Council of Europe following the conflict had been submitted to the Deputies at their meeting on 18 November. In support of the discussions between the parties being held in Geneva, in which it was not involved, as they were run by the United Nations, the European Union and the OSCE, the Council of Europe provided factual input regarding human rights developments. The Secretary General's efforts had to be supplemented by those of the Commissioner for Human Rights, who was continuing to assess implementation of the six principles which he had set out in August 2008 to ensure the protection of human rights and the provision of emergency humanitarian aid for the people affected by the conflict. It was highly desirable for the Commissioner to have access to all areas, regardless of who controlled them, when he next visited Georgia. Another region where there were obstacles to the Council of Europe's action was Kosovo. While the Council of Europe did not comment on the status of its government, it believed that its inhabitants should enjoy all the rights and legal standards which applied in democratic European societies. The Council was therefore continuing the activities which it had started in 1999 to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Kosovo. It was in contact with the European Union EULEX mission in order to offer expertise in terms of the operation of the judicial system and combating corruption, money laundering and human trafficking, as well as to promote other activities involving the protection of the cultural heritage, education and fostering co-operation between

communities. Lastly, the Council of Europe was going to extend its activity throughout Moldova under a joint programme of action with the European Commission and would develop confidence-building measures for the region of Transnistria in Moldova, in particular concerning types of local self-government, under a programme to be signed shortly with the government.

Ms Calmy-Rey was delighted to co-operate with the Assembly in pursuing these objectives.

The President warmly thanked the Chair of the Committee of Ministers for her detailed presentation of the Swiss chairmanship's priorities.

Mr Mignon said that dialogue between the Assembly and the Committee of Ministers was vital. The members of the Assembly were committed Europeans who were heavily involved in the activities of the organisation. The quality of the Assembly's work no longer needed to be demonstrated. However, the budget of the Assembly and, more generally, of the Council of Europe was shrinking away, which meant that the organisation could no longer operate satisfactorily.

Ms Calmy-Rey believed that freezing of expenditure was not in the interest of the Council of Europe, but there was a need to refocus on priority activities so as to raise the organisation's profile and efficiency.

Mr Meale also mentioned the budgetary cuts affecting the Council of Europe. While it clearly had to continue promoting its fundamental values, the way things were going, that would soon no longer be possible.

Ms Calmy-Rey pointed out that the freeze on expenditure had been approved by the member states' national governments and urged members to make representations to their governments.

Mr Kox said that the budgetary issue was problematic, as were the relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union. How could Switzerland, as a non-member of the EU, influence these relations so that the EU altered its condescending attitude towards the Council and stopped trying to gain the upper hand in all areas?

Ms Calmy-Rey reiterated the Swiss chairmanship's commitment to raising the Council of Europe's profile in its areas of excellence where its pre-eminence had to be recognised. The organisation needed to be more proactive in promoting its areas of excellence, where it was clear that it should not face any competition.

Mr Zingeris referred to the political and social upheaval caused by the global economic and financial crisis, in particular the radicalisation of public opinion and the risks of the democratic values advocated by the organisation being challenged. He also wondered about the obstacles which had actually prevented the work of the Council of Europe in some areas affected by the 2008 conflict between Georgia and Russia. Lastly, he quoted a personal example to show the Belarus authorities' lack of co-operation with civil society's efforts to promote democracy.

Ms Calmy-Rey believed that it was up to the Council of Europe to work to promote the values which had been affected by the economic crisis. As far as conflict resolution was concerned, the Council of Europe had to stick to a neutral and impartial stance so that it could work effectively to improve the lot of the populations concerned. Lastly, the Swiss chairmanship did wish to continue the efforts in terms of dialogue with Belarus.

Mr Reimann welcomed the strengthening of the Council of Europe's relations with other international organisations, in particular the United Nations, although he did wonder whether it was appropriate to set up a liaison office in Geneva rather than in New York, right next to the various UN agencies. In his view, the Assembly had a particular interest in strengthening relations with interparliamentary organisations in Europe and worldwide.

Ms Calmy-Rey reiterated her support for the establishment of a Council of Europe liaison office in Geneva, which was the United Nations' human rights base. She was in favour of parliamentarians being more closely involved in expanding relations with international organisations.

In reply to **Ms Jonker**, who mentioned the conflict between Georgia and Russia and the Assembly's proposals, **Ms Calmy-Rey** reiterated the Council of Europe's objectives of promoting its activities for the population on the ground, including the work of the Commissioner for Human Rights, which was why the Swiss chairmanship regarded access to all territories affected by the 2008 conflict as a priority.

The President thanked Ms Calmy-Rey for her statement and her detailed replies to the questions put.

4. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MR JOÃO SOARES, PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE OSCE

The President welcomed Mr Soares, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. The Standing Committee had had an opportunity to exchange views with his predecessor, Mr Lennmarker, in March 2007.

Mr Soares thanked the Assembly for the invitation and said that all the issues discussed with the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe were also concerns of the OSCE. The two assemblies had the privilege of conducting many joint activities, in particular the observation of elections in the member states. The Council of Europe had been founded in a different spirit from that which prevailed at the time the OSCE was set up. Nonetheless, the two organisations today had common ground in promoting the same values. It was imperative to put the principles and values upheld by the Council of Europe and the OSCE into practice on the ground. For its part, the OSCE had a presence in many countries and was particularly active in Belarus and Kosovo. It was essential for the two organisations to pursue their co-operation and achieve genuine complementarity on the ground.

Mr Vera Jardim wondered what measures could be taken to avoid competition between the various international organisations on the ground and promote more effective co-operation. He also wished to hear Mr Soares' analysis of developments in Belarus.

Ms Hurskainen also said that the situation in Belarus was a source of concern. How could the two assemblies co-operate on the ground?

Mr Soares said that he was well aware of the situation in Belarus, as he had been involved in the election observation process. Belarus was not the only country – and here some Council of Europe members also came to mind – which did not ensure compliance with the rules of democracy. The OSCE was active in Belarus and was in contact with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as with leaders of opposition parties and NGOs. This inclusive approach made it possible to keep dialogue on track. It was international contacts of this kind which were helping to open up the country. Belarus had made considerable efforts in this respect in recent months, following European pressure, especially from the European Union and the Council of Europe. Views of Belarus – which was still regarded as a puppet of Russia – would probably have to change if the desired progress was to be fostered.

In reply to a question from **Mr Gross** about election observation and the role of the OSCE/ODIHR and comments by **Ms Jonker** about the need to respect the competence of each organisation in the observation and evaluation of elections, **Mr Soares** acknowledged that there was an internal problem at the OSCE. The ODIHR sometimes operated in a non-transparent manner and there was a good governance issue. The ODIHR operated with direct financial contributions from certain states and with its own network of experts, some of whom sometimes did not have any experience. There were numerous examples of shortcomings in the ODIHR's election observation activities. Moreover, the ODIHR sought to question the role of parliamentarians, although it was they who had the most experience. Evaluation of electoral processes in the aftermath of elections needed to be conducted by parliamentarians and take precedence over the technical evaluation performed by the ODIHR. The latter had an unfortunate attitude towards delegations of parliamentary observers, which it sought to play off against one another. Yet there was no competition between the various parliamentary delegations. The Greek chairmanship of the OSCE had taken the matter up and the situation should now improve.

Mr Kox mentioned the budgetary problems facing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, including from the point of view of the restrictions imposed by national parliaments on their involvement in Assembly activities. Did the decision by the Portuguese parliament only to allow full members to attend meetings also apply to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE?

Mr Soares explained that the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE had been making prioritisation efforts for years but, unlike the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, its activities were essentially confined to the development of democracy and election observation. Moreover, it held only one session a year and had only two working languages.

The President thanked Mr Soares for sharing his thoughts with the Standing Committee. He wondered about the relations between Europe and the Mediterranean region and believed that the Council of Europe and the OSCE could show greater determination to expand co-operation with the countries concerned.

Mr Mignon, Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair in place of Mr de Puig.

5. EXAMINATION OF NEW CREDENTIALS

Doc. 12081 and addendum

The Standing Committee **ratified** the credentials of the new members and substitutes submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Norway and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, as set out in Doc. 12081 and addendum.

6. MODIFICATIONS IN THE COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEESCommissions (2009) 8
and addendum

The Standing Committee **ratified** the changes in the composition of Assembly committees in respect of the delegations of Armenia, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Spain, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey, as set out in document Commissions (2009) 8, and in the composition of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) with regard to the SOC political group, as well as of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs with regard to the ALDE political group, as set out in document Commissions (2009) 8 addendum.

7. REQUEST(S) FOR A CURRENT AFFAIRS DEBATE OR DEBATE UNDER URGENT PROCEDURE

The Chair announced that no requests for current affairs debates or debates under urgent procedure had been submitted within the deadlines. Item 12 of the agenda was therefore no longer relevant.

8. AGENDA

AS/Per (2009) OJ 3 rev

The Chair announced that, further to a proposal by the President of the Assembly, the Bureau had agreed that the reports on freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in Turkey and for the Muslim minority in Thrace (Eastern Greece) (Doc. 11860) and on the social impact of the economic crisis (Doc. 12026) would not be discussed by the Standing Committee and would be placed on the agenda of the Assembly’s next part-session. Moreover, as the report on the contribution of the Council of Europe in the development of the European Higher Education Area had to be debated on the day of the meeting, it would be discussed straight after item 14.

The revised draft agenda was **adopted**.

9. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY’S SITTINGS HELD ON 1 OCTOBER (AFTERNOON) AND 2 OCTOBER 2009 (MORNING)

AS (2009) PV 34 and 35

The minutes of proceedings of the Parliamentary Assembly’s sittings held on 1 October (afternoon) and 2 October 2009 were **approved**.

10. FIRST PART-SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (25-29 JANUARY 2010)

AS/Bur (2009) 89

The Chair reminded participants that Rule 26.4 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure stated that the draft agenda for a part-session of the Assembly should if possible be submitted to the Standing Committee, which was invited to take note of it.

The **Director General of the Assembly** reported on the discussions held by the Bureau the previous day.

The Standing Committee **took note** of the draft agenda of the Assembly’s first part-session.

11. REFERENCES, TRANSMISSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

AS/Bur (2009) 93

The Chair referred to document AS/Bur (2009) 93 containing proposals on references, transmissions and modifications of references to committees which the Bureau had examined at its meeting on 19 November 2009.

Following comments by **Mr Meale**, the Standing Committee **agreed** to defer the decision on the motion for a resolution on the European Union Common Agriculture Policy (Doc. 12050).

The Standing Committee **approved** the references, transmissions for information and modification of a reference as set out in Annex 1 of Appendix I below.

12. MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND POPULATION**a. Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe member states** Doc. 11990

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population:
Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC)*

Mr Cilevičs presented the report on "Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe member states" (Doc. 11990) and said that he had been rapporteur on a similar report on restrictions on asylum in 2000. Several of the problems remained and were identical in impact. The number of asylum seekers in Europe was falling at present. Procedures for examining asylum applications needed to be fair and comply with international standards. The disparities between states in this respect were sometimes substantial, however. It was important to improve the quality and consistency of the asylum decisions taken in the member states and to take steps in five areas: ensuring access to the asylum process, ensuring that eligibility criteria for asylum and complementary protection were fully compliant with fundamental rights, improving procedural safeguards and the quality of information and providing adequate training for those involved in the asylum process. The Assembly urged the Committee of Ministers to draw up guidelines for developing higher standards of protection for asylum seekers.

Ms Damanaki said that the problems identified in the report had existed for years in Greece. The new Greek government had decided to tackle them and was now reviewing the legal framework for the asylum process. Greece was confronted more particularly with the problem of controlling its borders. Like other countries facing a massive influx of asylum seekers, Greece was counting on solidarity between states. The solidarity of the European Union was also needed with regard to improvements in the accommodation conditions for asylum seekers. Lastly, she had doubts about the rapporteur's proposal in the draft resolution calling on member states to provide free legal assistance, as that would mean introducing discrimination to the detriment of the native population.

Mr Lindblad believed that it was essential for states to do everything possible to improve conditions for asylum seekers, in particular in terms of legal assistance. That was an obligation on Council of Europe member states.

Mr Cilevičs opposed Ms Damanaki's comments. Providing legal assistance to individuals uprooted from their home countries who did not speak the language of the receiving countries and were not familiar with their administrative and legal procedures did not amount to discrimination.

Ms Jonker, Chair of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, highlighted the great discrepancies between member states' practices in the area of asylum decisions. It was necessary to promote a spirit of compassion towards asylum seekers. She also praised the quality of the Migration Committee's work in this area, pointing out that it had had the opportunity to put across its views here by negotiating amendments to the four-year Stockholm programme with the European Union.

The Chair closed the debate and warmly thanked the rapporteur. He put to the vote the draft resolution set out in Doc. 11990, which **was adopted** unanimously [Resolution 1695 (2009)]. The draft recommendation was also **adopted** unanimously [Recommendation 1889 (2009)].

b. Engaging European diasporas: the need for governmental and intergovernmental responses Doc. 12076

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population:
Ms Oksana Bilozir (Ukraine, EPP/CD)*

Ms Jonker, Chair of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, presented the report on “Engaging European diasporas: the need for governmental and intergovernmental responses” (Doc. 12076), as the rapporteur had apologised for absence. The rapid pace of globalisation and the recent global economic downturn had highlighted the issue of international migration, relations with diasporas and their engagement in development policies. The Assembly had discussed relations with diasporas and nationals living abroad several times. While many countries had established institutional ties with their diasporas, in particular at political level, little had been done in terms of policies designed to capitalise on the social, economic and cultural contributions of diasporas in both host countries and countries of origin. Moreover, there was no agreed definition of diaspora, but the committee’s report offered one. The report also identified three key solutions for greater involvement of diasporas: the elaboration of consistent migration policies that regarded diasporas as vectors of development, the promotion of an institutional role for diasporas through dialogue and regular consultation and incentives to diaspora communities willing to engage in the development of their home countries.

Mr Greenway fully supported the report presented, which offered balanced proposals in response to the fundamental questions raised. Much work still had to be done by international organisations, in particular the European Union, the Council of Europe and the International Organisation for Migration, to step up co-operation.

The Chair also congratulated the committee on a particularly interesting report. He closed the debate and put to the vote the draft resolution set out in Doc. 12076, which **was adopted** unanimously [Resolution 1696 (2009)].

The Chair said that an amendment to the draft recommendation had been tabled.

Ms Jonker moved Amendment 1, which **was adopted**.

The draft recommendation, as amended, **was adopted** unanimously [Recommendation 1890 (2009)].

13. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN

Migrant women: at particular risk from domestic violence

Doc. 11991
Amendments

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men:
Ms Karin Woldseth (Norway, EDG)*

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population (for opinion):
Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE)* Doc. 12054

Ms Woldseth presented the report on “Migrant women: at particular risk from domestic violence” (Doc. 11991). The statistics from the various European countries showed that migrant women were victims of violence. However, the violence was difficult to detect, given the isolation of the women, family pressure, the language barrier and problems with integration in the host countries. The women did not enjoy the protection to which they should be entitled. Like so-called honour crimes, domestic violence could not be justified on cultural grounds. Some countries had introduced special measures to prevent and combat the violence. Member states needed to improve the legal status of migrant women and adopt policies targeted at their specific needs. The success of the relevant measures depended on the involvement of the men in the communities concerned and the promotion of dialogue between communities, authorities and NGOs.

Ms Jonker, Chair of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, praised the report by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and presented her committee’s opinion, in the absence of the rapporteur for opinion. Migrant women could be exposed to the risk of violence at three levels: in their own countries, before emigrating; in transit, especially in the case of trafficking; and in the host countries, where the vulnerability of their situation, their illegal status and their isolation placed them at greater risk of violence, including domestic violence. It was necessary to promote access by these women to the policies and programmes for combating domestic violence, while affording them protection and medical and psychological support.

Ms Hurskainen said that there was an urgent need to address the situation of migrant women. In addition, there were many legal problems in the member states resulting from marriages between nationals and migrant women.

Mr Mendes Bota, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, was most distressed by the sometimes tragic fate of migrant women, who could be victims of domestic violence or forced marriages, were cut off from their own countries and lived illegally without legal protection. It was important for the Assembly to keep up the pressure in public opinion to condemn these situations.

The Chair closed the debate. He said that four amendments to the draft resolution had been tabled. As the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men had approved them unanimously, they were declared **adopted** without a vote, in accordance with Rule 34.10 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Chair put to the vote the draft resolution set out in Doc. 11991, as amended, which **was adopted** unanimously [Resolution 1697 (2009)]. The draft recommendation was also **adopted** unanimously [Recommendation 1891 (2009)].

14. CULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

The contribution of the Council of Europe in the development of the European Higher Education Area

Doc. 11977
Amendment

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education:
Mr Andrew McIntosh (United Kingdom, SOC)*

Mr McIntosh presented the report on "The contribution of the Council of Europe in the development of the European Higher Education Area" (Doc. 11977). He underlined the importance of the Council of Europe's work over the last 60 years in the field of education and co-operation in higher education, for instance through the recognition of a fundamental right to education in the European Convention on Human Rights, the promotion of student mobility, the recognition of qualifications and university exchanges. The Council of Europe had been deeply involved in the process, and especially in its extension to non-European Union member states, with the result that participation in the Bologna process now tallied with Council of Europe membership. The establishment of a fully-fledged European Higher Education Area was the next step. Negotiations were under way and the Assembly needed to make its voice heard at the next Conference of European Education Ministers in Vienna.

Mr Wach pointed out that the Bologna process had played a significant role in student exchanges and in promoting high-quality higher education, as well as fostering democratic values. The process had to be supported, in particular in financial terms.

Mr Seyidov fully endorsed the rapporteur's proposals. The Bologna Process was vital to countries like Azerbaijan. However, it was under threat, in particular because some states were not fully involved. It was still mainly dominated by European Union member countries.

The Chair closed the debate. He said that an amendment to the draft recommendation had been tabled.

Mr McIntosh moved Amendment 1, which had received the unanimous support of the Committee on Culture.

The Chair put to the vote the draft recommendation set out in Doc 11977, as amended, which **was adopted** unanimously [Recommendation 1892 (2009)].

Mr de Puig, President of the Assembly, took the Chair again.

15. RULES, IMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

- a. **Amendment of various provisions of the Parliamentary Assembly's Rules of Procedure** Doc. 12071 and addendum Amendments

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Rules, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:
Mr Serhiy Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE)*

Mr Holovaty presented the report on “Amendment of various provisions of the Parliamentary Assembly's Rules of Procedure” (Doc. 12071 and addendum), pointing out that the review conducted by the Committee on Rules of Procedure was set in the very specific context of the consideration by the Assembly of the reports on the consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia and the six requests, in one year, involving challenges to or reconsideration of credentials of several delegations. The requests had given rise to problems of interpretation of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, which meant clarification of certain provisions was necessary. The unusual frequency of the requests challenging credentials had also raised a question of principle about whether the conditions governing use of the relevant procedures should be tightened up. The committee had concluded that they should and was therefore recommending various amendments to the Rules of Procedure to tighten up the conditions governing use of the procedures for challenging national delegations' credentials. It was also recommending that the procedures be simplified and harmonised. Lastly, it believed that some other provisions of the Rules of Procedure needed to be reviewed to bring them into line with parliamentary practice.

Mr Mignon wondered whether it would be desirable to go beyond the committee's recommendations and further tighten up the conditions governing requests to reconsider national delegations' credentials in accordance with Rule 9.

Mr Holovaty explained that the Committee on Rules of Procedure wished to harmonise the rules and had therefore sought to limit the disparities between similar provisions.

Mr Greenway, Chair of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, said that each of the proposals in the report had been carefully considered and discussed in depth. They responded to the need to bring the Rules of Procedure into line with the Assembly's actual practices. The committee had focused more particularly on strengthening the procedures for challenging credentials.

The President closed the debate. He said that seven amendments to the draft resolution had been tabled.

Mr Holovaty moved Amendments 1 to 7, on behalf of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs. The amendments **were adopted**.

The President put to the vote the draft resolution set out in Doc 12071, as amended, which **was adopted** unanimously [Resolution 1698 (2009)].

- b. **Procedural implications of Assembly Resolution 1600 (2008) on “The Council of Europe and its observer states – the current situation and a way forward” and related Assembly texts** Doc. 12072

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

Mr Cebeci presented the report on “Procedural implications of Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1600 (2008) on ‘the Council of Europe and its observer states – the current situation and a way forward’ and related Assembly texts” (Doc. 12072). The Assembly had been actively involved for several years in expanding relations with non-member states, in particular in connection with promotion of the Council of Europe's core values. The relevant relations were based on specific statuses: special guest, observer and, very recently, partner for democracy. The contribution of the delegations from non-member states to the Assembly's work should be capitalised on, with additional rights being granted during Assembly sessions and committee meetings.

The President put to the vote the draft resolution set out in Doc 12072, which **was adopted** unanimously [Resolution 1699 (2009)].

16. SOCIAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS**15 years since the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action**Doc. 11992
Amendments*Rapporteur of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs:
Ms Christine McCafferty (United Kingdom, SOC)**Rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population (for opinion):
Mr Francis Agius (Malta, EPP/CD)*

Doc. 12053

The President proposed that discussion of this item be deferred, as the Standing Committee no longer had time to debate it properly, given the number of amendments to the draft resolution which had been tabled.

Agreed.

Ms Jonker said it was unfortunate that discussion of the report, which caused such strong feelings, was being deferred for a second time, with the risk that the report would purely and simply be buried in the near future.

The President again explained that discussion was not being deferred on any political or polemical grounds but solely because consideration of the 33 amendments tabled would have taken up more time than the committee had at its disposal.

17. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT**The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)**

Doc. 12069

*Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development:
Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD)**Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education (for opinion):
Ms Maria Manuela de Melo (Portugal, SOC)*

Doc. 12070

Mr Sasi presented the report on "The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)" (Doc. 12069). The centre had been set up in 1989, since when the political situation and economic circumstances had changed. The 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government had recognised the part played by the centre in promoting intercultural dialogue with neighbouring regions. The centre had adopted a new strategy in 2008, setting out a new roadmap for its future activities. It had concluded new co-operation agreements, in particular with the European Commission. It had also been joined by new members. However, only 19 Council of Europe member states were members of the North-South Centre. Consideration should therefore be given to transforming its status so that all Council of Europe member states were brought into the centre.

The President said that the Committee on Culture, Science and Education had presented a written opinion (Doc. 12070) which could not be presented orally.

Mr Reimann said that it was unfortunate that so few Council of Europe member states were members of the North-South Centre. However, he was opposed to the recommendation in paragraph 13.2 of the draft resolution on giving consideration to member states automatically being members. He therefore requested that the report be referred back to committee, in accordance with Rule 37.1 of the Rules of Procedure.

Mr Sasi opposed the request.

The proposal to refer the report back to committee **was rejected**, by nine votes to six.

Mr Sasi said he wished to move an oral amendment to the draft recommendation, to update paragraph 9 by mentioning Cape Verde's recent official application for membership.

Mr Braun, Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, supported the proposal. The amendment **was adopted**.

The President put to the vote the draft recommendation set out in Doc 12069, as amended, which **was adopted** with one vote against and two abstentions [Recommendation 1893 (2009)].

18. OTHER BUSINESS

The President asked the Standing Committee to consider the draft declaration addressed to the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009.

Mr Meale presented the draft declaration and stressed the need for a radical change in the approach to environmental issues so as to combat climate change. That was the aim of the New Earth Deal campaign, which the Assembly had launched in August.

The Standing Committee **adopted** a declaration (see Annex 2 of Appendix II below).

Mr Zingeris again mentioned the need for the Assembly to debate the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis.

Mr Gross pointed out that a motion for a resolution had been presented on the subject. The Political Affairs Committee could be asked to draw up a report if the motion was referred to it.

Mr Wille said that such a report should be drawn up by the Committee on Economic Affairs.

Mr Vera Jardim said he was worried about the implications of the decision by the Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament to restrict participation in the Assembly's activities to full members of the parliamentary delegation and to only one representative at committee meetings.

19. NEXT MEETING

The Standing Committee **agreed** to hold its next meeting in Paris (French National Assembly) on 12 March 2010.

The meeting **rose** at 1.30 pm.

APPENDIX I**List of participants****President of the Assembly**

Mr Lluís Maria de PUIG i OLIVE Spain

Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

Mr Joachim HÖRSTER Germany
 Mr Paul WILLE Belgium
 Mr Jean-Claude MIGNON France
 Mrs Anna ČURDOVÁ Czech Republic
 Mr Andres HERKEL Estonia
 Mr Davit HARUTYUNYAN Armenia
 Mr Samad SEYIDOV Azerbaijan
 Mr Mevlüt ÇAVUŞOĞLU Turkey
 Mr Christos POURGOURIDES Cyprus
 Mr Piotr WACH I (for Mr Dariusz LIPIŃSK) Poland
 Mrs Dzhema GROZDANOVA Bulgaria

Chairpersons of Political Groups

Mr Andreas GROSS Socialist Group
 Mrs Anne BRASSEUR Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
 Mr David WILSHIRE European Democrat Group
 Mr Tiny KOX Group of the Unified European Left

Chairpersons of National delegations

Mr Zhivko TODOROV Bulgaria
 Mrs Sinikka HURSKAINEN Finland
 Mr Petré TSISKARISHVILI Georgia
 Mrs Maria DAMANAKI Greece
 Mr Zoltán SZABÓ Hungary
 Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS Lithuania
 Ms Karin S. WOLDSETH Norway
 Mr José VERA JARDIM Portugal
 Mr Maximilian REIMANN Switzerland
 Mr Aleksandar NIKOLOSKI "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
 Mr Ivan POPESCU Ukraine

Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee

Mr Göran LINDBLAD Sweden

Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development

Mr Márton BRAUN Hungary

Chairperson of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

Mrs Christine McCAFFERTY United Kingdom

Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population

Mrs Corien W.A. JONKER The Netherlands

Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education

Mme Anne BRASSEUR

Luxembourg

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

Mr Alan MEALE

United Kingdom

Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

Mr José MENDES BOTA (for Mrs Pernille FRAHM)

Denmark

Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Mr Serhiy HOLOVATY

Ukraine

Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

Mr John GREENWAY

United Kingdom

Rapporteurs (not member of the Standing Committee)

Mr Erol Aslan CEBECI

Turkey

Mr Boriss CILEVIČS

Latvia

Mr Andrew McINTOSH

United Kingdom

Mr Kimmo SASI

Finland

Also present:**Members of the Delegation of Switzerland**

Mr Theo MAISSEN

Switzerland

Mrs Liliane MAURY PASQUIER

Switzerland

Mr Felix MÜRI

Switzerland

Mrs Doris STUMP

Switzerland

Mr Hansjörg WALTER

Switzerland

Other member of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Zoran PETRESKI

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Invited personalities

Mrs Chiara SIMONESCHI-CORTESI, President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation

Mrs Micheline CALMY-REY, Federal Councillor, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Mr João SOARES, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE

Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

Mr Paul WIDMER, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Switzerland, Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Mateo SORINAS, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
Mr Wojciech SAWICKI, Director General
Mr Horst SCHADE, Director of General Services
Mr Alfred SIXTO, Head of the Table Office
Mr Petr SICH, Head of the Private Office of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly
Mrs Valérie CLAMER, Secretary of the Standing Committee

Council of Europe

Mrs Mireille PAULUS, Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Mr Denis HUBER, Executive Director of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity,
Lisbon

APPENDIX II

Synopsis

The **Standing Committee**, meeting on 20 November 2009 in Bern with Mr de Puig, President of the Assembly, and then Mr Mignon, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the chair:

- heard a welcome address by Mrs Chiara Simoneschi-Cortesi, President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation;
- held an exchange of views with Mrs Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
- held an exchange of views with Mr João Soares, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE;
- ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Norway and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”;
- ratified the changes in the composition of Assembly committees in respect of the delegations of Armenia, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Spain, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey, and in the composition of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) with regard to the SOC political group, as well as of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs with regard to the ALDE political group;
- took note of the draft agenda of the first part-session of the Assembly (25-29 January 2010);
- ratified the references and the modification of a reference proposed by the Bureau which are contained in Appendix I hereafter;
- adopted, on behalf of the Assembly, the following texts:

Recommendation 1889 (2009)	Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe member states
Recommendation 1890 (2009)	Engaging European diasporas: the need for governmental and intergovernmental responses
Recommendation 1891 (2009)	Migrant women: at particular risk from domestic violence
Recommendation 1892 (2009)	The contribution of the Council of Europe in the development of the European Higher Education Area
Recommendation 1893 (2009)	The future of the European Centre for global Interdependence and Solidarity (« North-South Centre »)
Resolution 1695 (2009)	Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe member states
Resolution 1696 (2009)	Engaging European diasporas: the need for governmental and intergovernmental responses
Resolution 1697 (2009)	Migrant women: at particular risk from domestic violence
Resolution 1698 (2009)	Amendments of various provisions of the Parliamentary Assembly’s Rules of Procedure
Resolution 1699 (2009)	Procedural implications of Assembly Resolution 1600 (2008) on “The Council of Europe and its observer states: the current situation and a way forward” and related Assembly texts

- adopted a Declaration addressed to the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen (7-18 December 2009) (see Appendix II);
- postponed consideration of the following reports:
 - . Freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in Turkey and for the Muslim minority in Thrace (Eastern Greece) (Doc. 11860),
 - . 15 years since the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (Doc. 11992),
 - . The social impact of the economic crisis (Doc. 12026);
- decided to hold its next meeting in Paris, on 12 March 2010.

Appendix 1

Decisions on documents tabled for references to committees

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Preventing natural disasters**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Marin and others
Doc. 12049

Reference to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs for report at the Standing Committee

2. **Draft Protocol amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (ETS 127) ***
Request for an opinion by the Committee of Ministers

Reference to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report

3. **The definition of political prisoners**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Agramunt and others
Doc. 11922

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report

4. **Drafting an additional protocol to the European Convention for Human Rights : basic standards for national minorities**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Frunda and others
Doc. 11897

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report

5. **The inadmissibility of restrictions on freedom of movement as punishment for political positions**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others
Doc. 11903

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report

* Subject to the Committee of Ministers having transmitted the draft text to the Assembly for opinion.

B. TRANSMISSION FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Implementation of the fundamental principle of the rule of law
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Keleş and others
Doc. 12036**

Transmission to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for information

- 2. Combating selective abortion
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Volonte' and others
Doc. 12047**

Transmission to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for information

- 3. The milk crisis and its impact on farming
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Marin and others
Doc. 12048**

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

C. MODIFICATION OF A REFERENCE

- 1. Situation in Belarus
Bureau decision**

Reference to the Political Affairs Committee for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion.

Appendix 2**DECLARATION****addressed to the Parties to the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
meeting in Copenhagen (COP-15), 7-18 December 2009**

The Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,² meeting on 20 November 2009 in Bern (Switzerland), referring to Assembly Resolution 1682 (2009) on challenges posed by climate change:

1. notes that climate change represents both a threat to humanity and the conditions in which present and future generations will have to live and believes that given that the 19th century was founded on mass production and the 20th century on mass consumption, the 21st century should instead focus upon quality of life, respect for nature and sustainable development;
2. affirms that climate change raises important questions about social justice, equity and human rights across both borders and generations and refers to Assembly Recommendation 1885 (2009) on drafting an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the right to a healthy environment, which would clearly embed within it the right to a healthy and viable environment as a human right;
3. insists on the need to achieve a fair balance between the interests of the rich industrialised countries which carry the overwhelming responsibility for past greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), those of the developing countries which have fast-growing economies and populations that are contributing increasingly to current emissions, and the interests of the world's poorest countries which are most affected by the consequences of climate change as they have less capacity and fewer resources to adapt to such life-threatening changes;
4. calls upon the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its next meeting in Copenhagen (COP-15) to reach both ambitious and realistic binding global agreements that do not call into question the common principle that any future low-carbon world must have social justice at its core;
5. is deeply concerned that unless an agreement is reached in Copenhagen, 40% of the world's poorest populations – 2.6 billion people – will face a grim future, which will further jeopardise their right to life through major restrictions to their access to water, food, shelter, health, a gainful livelihood and security;
6. welcomes the lead taken by the European Union and urges leading developed countries to match or exceed its unilateral pledge;
7. invites all the Parties to UNFCCC to agree long-term objectives in the post-Kyoto negotiations – in particular regarding respect for social justice and equity in energy and resource consumption – by the setting, inter alia, of ambitious targets to reach equal GHG emissions per capita for all countries by 2050 that do not exceed 2 tonnes CO₂ equivalent.

² The Parliamentary Assembly brings together representatives of the 47 parliaments of Council of Europe member states and 3 observer states (Canada, Israel and Mexico).