

17 June 2011

Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe – European Parliament
Joint Informal Body¹

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 15 June 2011

The Joint Informal Body meeting in Paris, with Messrs Christos Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) and Carlo Casini (Italy, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards the *Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights*:

- reached agreement that, following accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Parliament would be entitled to participate in the sittings of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and its relevant bodies when the latter exercises its functions related to the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights under Article 22 of the Convention;
- as concerns the manner in which representatives of the European Parliament are to take part and vote within the Parliamentary Assembly's different bodies in the election process, there was agreement that:
 - (a) when the Parliamentary Assembly elects judges, the European Parliament would be entitled to participate in the Parliamentary Assembly with the same number of representatives as states entitled to the highest number of representatives – presently 18 - as specified in Article 26 of the Council of Europe's Statute;
 - (b) The European Parliament would be entitled to four titular and four alternate seats (c.f., Rule 42, §§ 1 & 2, of the Parliamentary Assembly's Rules of Procedure) when participating in the Parliamentary Assembly's 84-member Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, whenever need for this were to arise;
 - (c) One representative of the European Parliament, with a right to vote, would take part in the meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly's Bureau whenever the election of judges is on the agenda;
 - (d) One representative of the European Parliament (with an alternate), would be entitled to sit *ex officio*, with a right to vote, on the Parliamentary Assembly's Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) when the Sub-Committee - whose composition is determined by the Parliamentary Assembly's Political Groups - provides confidential recommendations to the plenary Assembly to enable the latter to make an informed choice when it elects judges;
- noted that the above arrangements must now be approved by the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament in accordance with their respective procedures.

¹ The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the European Parliament (EP) established this Joint Informal Body upon the initiative of the EP "*in order to coordinate information sharing*": see § 34 of EP Resolution of 19 May 2010 on the institutional aspects of the accession of the EU to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) (2009/2241 (INI)).