

20 April 2006  
**Synopsis No 2006/45**

## To the Members of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education

### Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 10 to 13 April 2006

The **Committee on Culture, Science and Education** meeting in Strasbourg on 10 and 13 April with Mr Legendre, and in part Baroness Hooper, in the chair:

- took position on amendments to the draft recommendation on the place of mother tongue in school education (Rapporteur: Mr Legendre, France, EPP/CD);
- heard a presentation by the Juris Consult of the European Court of Human Rights, Mr Berger, on the Court's case-law on blasphemy and hate speech on religious grounds (Rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC); asked Mrs Hurskainen to extend her report to cover freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs and agreed to hold a hearing on this subject in Paris on 18 May with a view to presenting a report at the June part-session;
- took note of a draft report and began examination of a preliminary draft recommendation on the situation of the Finno-Ugric and Samoyed peoples (Rapporteur: Mrs Saks, Estonia, SOC) but decided to return to the question at a later meeting;
- was informed by Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, ALDE) on the progress of his report on the cultural situation of the Kurds, asked its Turkish members to comment on a revised draft and approved the record of the hearing held in Paris on 18 January;
- discussed the follow-up to the Third Summit: priorities for cultural co-operation (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC) and agreed to consider adopting a report at its next meeting;
- was informed by Mr Jařab (Czech Republic, ALDE) on the progress of his report on academic freedom and university autonomy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and agreed to propose this for debate during the June part-session;
- held an exchange of views on the situation of the media in Italy on the basis of a report by Mr Mooney (Ireland, ALDE) on media practice before the elections and decided to return to the question in the light of decisions on the opening of the monitoring procedure;
- heard a report by Mr Schieder on the Executive Council of the North-South Centre (Strasbourg, 13 March 2006);
- took note of the replies by the Committee of Ministers to Rec. 1688 (2004) on Diaspora cultures, Rec. 1702 (2005) on Freedom of the press and the working conditions of journalist in conflict zones, Rec. 1706 (2005) on Media and terrorism and asked Mr Fomenko to consider the reply to Rec.1682 (2004) on Education for Europe;

cc:     Secretary General and secretariat of the Assembly  
          Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly  
          Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly  
          Directors General  
          Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
          Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
          Director of Communication and Research  
          Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- asked Mr O'Hara to go ahead with the organisation of his study visit on the cultural heritage in the South Caucasus in the period of 25 May – 4 June;
- designated its representatives to forthcoming meetings;
- paid tribute to Mrs Nothis, who has served in the Committee secretariat for the last 27 years, on the occasion of her last attendance at a committee meeting;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on 17 (Paris office) and 18 May (Senate).

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The **Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage**, meeting on 11 April with Mr Zingeris in the chair:

- held an exchange of views on the Council of Europe Museum Prize with Dr Tourta, Director of the Museum of Byzantine Culture (Thessaloniki), winner of the prize in 2005, Mr Reed, Director of the Churchill Museum (London), winner of the 2006 prize and Dr van der Weiden, Director of the European Museum Forum;
- was informed by Mr O'Hara, General Rapporteur on the Cultural Heritage, on developments regarding Allianoi (Turkey), Rosia Montana (Romania) and the South Caucasus;
- asked Mr O'Hara to pursue arrangements for his study visit to the South Caucasus in the light of information from Mr de Thyse (DG IV) on progress towards intergovernmental dialogue on cultural heritage in the region;
- took note of the agenda of the coming meeting of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage (CD-PAT, Strasbourg, 11-12 May) and asked Mr Nachbar to participate;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the next part-session (26-30 June 2006).

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The **Sub-Committee in Youth and Sport** meeting on 12 April in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg (EYC) with Mr Schneider in the chair;

- was welcomed in the EYC by Mr Weingärtner, Director of Youth and Sport and Ms Mulcahy, Executive Director of the Centre;
- visited the Centre and was informed about its activities;
- held an exchange of views on Council of Europe activities in the youth field and called for clarification of the Assembly's role in the forthcoming "All different all equal" campaign; was surprised to learn of uncertainties surrounding the future of the Centre but expressed firm support for its continuation;
- held an exchange of views on Council of Europe activities in the field of sport with the participation of Ms Ita Mirianashvili of the Sport Department and expressed the view that the Council of Europe should stay active in this field;
- was informed by the Chairman of an initiative of the President of the Assembly to convene a joint conference with UEFA on the implementation of Council of Europe principles of good governance in sports, to take place in Strasbourg on 29 September 2006 and agreed to meet on that occasion ;
- took note of a report by Mr de Puig on the UEFA "Uniteagainstracism" Conference (Barcelona, 1 February 2006);
- decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the next part session (26-30 June 2006).

Christopher Grayson, João Ary, Rüdiger Dossow