



12 December 2006
Synopsis No 2006/95

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Paris on 8 December 2006

The **Committee on Culture, Science and Education** meeting in Paris on 8 December 2006 with Mr Legendre in the chair:

- approved a report, adopting a draft recommendation, on **the precautionary principle and responsible risk assessment** (rapporteur: Mr Randegger, Switzerland, ALDE) and took note that it was foreseen for debate in the forthcoming Assembly January 2007 part-session;
- decided to award the **Council of Europe Museum Prize for 2007** to the International Museum of the Reformation, Geneva, Switzerland (Rapporteur: Mr O'Hara, United Kingdom, SOC);
- held an in-depth exchange of views on **intercultural dialogue** and related matters and decided to:
 - hold a **colloquy on 27 February 2007** in Strasbourg to prepare its reports on "new steps in the field of intercultural and interconfessional dialogue and relations between the State, religion and individuals" (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC; on "blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion" (Rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC) and on "European Muslim communities confronted with extremism" (Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Damanaki, Greece, SOC), reports which are due for debate at the Assembly's June 2007 session;
 - set up an **ad hoc Sub-committee on intercultural dialogue**, composed of the Bureau of the Committee, the Chairmen of the relevant sub-committees and the competent rapporteurs, and asked it to follow: an exchange of views with the Cultural Committee of the European Parliament (Strasbourg, 12 February 2007); the Youth Campaign Symposium (26-29 March 2007); the Committee of Ministers conference (San Marino, 23-24 April 2007) and the CIS conference (Saint Petersburg, 31 May-1 June 2007);
- heard a presentation on the drafting process of the **White Paper on intercultural dialogue** by Mr Bunjes, DG IV, and asked its ad hoc Sub-committee to follow the issue;

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cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
The Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary 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
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- was informed by the Chairman that he would take part in an exchange of views with the **Committee of Ministers' rapporteur group on culture (GR-C)** on 12 December in Strasbourg;
- considered and approved comments by Baroness Hooper and Mr Schneider to the **replies of the Committee of Ministers to Recommendations 1730 and 1720** respectively;
- **appointed the following rapporteurs:**
 - Mrs Melo, Portugal, SOC, for a contribution to the report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe;
 - Mr Fischer, Germany, EPP/CD, for a report on vocational education and training (instead of Mr Randegger);
- was informed by Mr McIntosh on the meeting of its **Sub-Committee on the Media (Baku, 29-30 November 2006)** and by the Chairman on the meeting of its **Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage (Paris, 7 December 2006)**;
- was informed by Mr Huseynov on the **situation of the media in Azerbaijan**;
- discussed recent attacks and threats to the lives and **freedom of expression of journalists**, decided to request an **urgent procedure debate** on this subject and appointed Mr McIntosh, United Kingdom, SOC, as rapporteur, subject to the question being referred to the Committee;
- designated **representatives to forthcoming meetings** and decided that whenever a representative was not able to report orally at the next Committee meeting he/she should submit a written memorandum;
- decided to hold its **next meeting** in Strasbourg during the January 2007 session of the Assembly

Christopher Grayson, João Ary