

2 March 2007
Synopsis No 2007/9

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 27 February 2007

The **Committee on Culture, Science and Education** meeting in Strasbourg on 27 February 2007 with Mrs Brasseur and subsequently Baroness Hooper in the chair:

- approved its contribution to the report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe (Rapporteur: Mrs Melo, Portugal, Soc);
- held a colloquy on questions related to state and religion, in order to provide a basis for future debates in the Assembly (Rapporteurs: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC, Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC, Mrs Damanaki, Greece, SOC and Mr Lengagne, France, SOC), with the participation of:
 - Ambassador Guido Bellatti Ceccoli, President of the Ministers' Deputies;
 - Ambassador Eleonora Petrova-Mitevskva, Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on education, culture, sport, youth and environment;
 - Mr Pierre Corneloup, Mayor of Montchanin, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;
 - Mr Manuel Lezertua, Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights;
 - Mr Frank Cranmer, University College London and Cardiff Law School;
 - Professor Talip Kucukcan, Political, Economic and Social Research Foundation, Ankara;
 - Mr Didier Leschi, Head of the Bureau central des Cultes, French Ministry of the Interior;
 - Professor Antonio Maria Baggio, Gregorian University, Rome;
 - Mrs Vera Pegna, European Humanist Federation;
 - Professor Louis-Léon Christians, expert to the Venice Commission;
 - Mr Jacques Arnould, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, France;
 - Mrs Janine Elkouby, Israelite Consistory of the Bas-Rhin;
 - Father Bernard Senelle, Dominican Order, Strasbourg;
 - Hegumen Philaret (Bulekov), Russian Orthodox Church, Strasbourg;
 - Imam Abdelhamid Youyou, Strasbourg Grand Mosque;
 - Mr Keith Porteous Wood, National Secular Society, United Kingdom;
 - Pastor Richard Fischer, Conference of European Churches;
 - Ambassador Christian Ter Stepanian, Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies' reflection group on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue; and
 - Mrs Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Coordinator for intercultural dialogue;

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

- set up an ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the Conference on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue in San Marino on 23-24 April 2007, subject to Bureau authorisation, composed of Mr Fomenko, Baroness Hooper, Mrs Hurskainen and Mr de Puig;
- was informed on the Youth Campaign Symposium on intercultural and interreligious dialogue (Istanbul, 28-31 March 2007) by Mr Michael Raphael, Campaign Manager;
- appointed new members to its sub-committees;

Sub-Committee on the Media:

Mr Fenechiu (member) and Mr Miutescu (substitute) for Romania

Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport:

Mr Glavan (member) and Mr Tundrea (substitute) Romania,
Mr Debono (member) and Mr Falzon (substitute) Malta

- asked Mr Pollozhani, who was participating in the next meeting of ECRI (Strasbourg, 13-15 March) to represent the Committee also at the meetings of the Steering Committee for Education (12-14 March) and the Ad hoc Advisory Group on education for democratic citizenship and human rights (15-16 March);
- welcomed an invitation of the Polish delegation to meet in Toruń in October 2007;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the next Assembly part-session (16-20 April 2007).

Christopher Grayson, João Ary, Rüdiger Dossow