

20 April 2007
Synopsis No 2007/20

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 17 and 19 April 2007

The **Committee on Culture, Science and Education** meeting in Strasbourg on 17 and 19 April 2007 with Mr Legendre in the chair:

- associated itself with its Sub-Committee on the Media in condemning the kidnapping of BBC journalist Alan Johnston in Gaza and calling for his immediate liberation;
- approved a supplementary opinion on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe (Rapporteur: Mrs Melo, Portugal, SOC) and adopted amendments to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation presented by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Political Affairs Committee respectively;
- was informed of replies to the questionnaire on intercultural dialogue and encouraged more members to reply;
- discussed preparation for the joint conference on intercultural and interreligious dialogue (St Petersburg, 1 June 2007), proposed Mrs Brasseur to chair panel 1, Mr de Puig to co-chair panel 2, Mr Walter to chair panel 3 and left it to the Sub-Committee on external relations of the Political Affairs Committee to propose a co-chair for panel 4 and took note of a preliminary draft final declaration;
- discussed intercultural dialogue on the basis of a draft outline for a report on blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion presented by Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) and an outline report on state, religion, secularity and human rights by Mr de Puig (Spain, SOC), decided that the report by Mr Lengagne (France, SOC) on the dangers of creationism for education should be added to the joint debate in the June part-session and asked its Chairman to write to the President accordingly;
- agreed to ask for a prolongation of the deadline for tabling the report on making use of the full potential of e-learning for primary and secondary education, vocational training and lifelong learning (Rapporteur: Mr Fischer, Germany, EPP);
- discussed European literature (Rapporteur: Mr Legendre, EPP), in preparation of a colloquy to be held in Toruń (Poland) on 22 October 2007 and agreed to hold a second colloquy on 11 December in Paris;
- took note of an information document on the activities of the North-South Centre related to global education and intercultural dialogue and agreed in principle to be associated with a Conference with Chairs of cultural committees from Europe and Africa to be held in Lisbon in December 2007;

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

- appointed Mr Arnaut (Portugal, EPP) rapporteur on the European sport model: need of preservation (Doc. 11159) and Mr Olsson (Sweden, EPP) rapporteur for an opinion on sustainable development and tourism: towards quality growth (Doc. 11069);
- appointed the following members in its sub-committees:
 - Sub-Committee on the Media: Mr Mooney in the place of Lord Russell-Johnston, who became an alternate for Mr McIntosh;
 - Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport: Mr Mooney, Mrs Damanaki and Mr Bosak as members and Mr Reiss as alternate for Mr Geveaux;
- designated the following members for the ad hoc Committee for the Forum for the future of democracy (Stockholm, 13-15 June 2007): Mr Fomenko, Mr Gross, Mr Olsson, Mr de Puig, Mrs Severinsen and Mr Tekelioglu;
- designated the following representatives:
 - Mrs Brasseur and Mr Pollozhani to the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education (Istanbul, 4-5 May);
 - Mr O'Hara to the International Museum of the Reformation local event (Geneva, 11 May);
 - Mr Nachbar to the meeting of the CD-PAT (Strasbourg, 14-15 May)
 - Mr Olsson to the Sub-Committee on Tourism (of the Economic Affairs Committee) and hearing on "the importance of tourism to the development of regions in Portugal" (Almancil, 17-18 May);
 - Mr Wodarg to the CDBI (Strasbourg, 4-8 June)
 - Mr Zingeris to the Europa Nostra Council (Stockholm, 6-7 June)
- decided to hold its next meeting in St Petersburg on 31 May and 1 June 2007.

The **Sub-Committee on the Media**, meeting in Strasbourg on 16 April 2007 with Mr Walter in the chair:

- adopted a statement condemning the kidnapping of the BBC journalist Alan Johnston in Gaza and calling for his immediate release;
- heard a presentation on national legislation on blasphemy and related offences on the basis of the interim report by the Venice Commission by Mrs Granata-Menghini, Head of Constitutional Co-operation Division of the Venice Commission;
- heard a presentation on hate speech on the basis of a report by the Steering Committee on Human Rights by Mr Polakiewicz, Head of Human Rights Law and Policy Division, DG II – Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- asked its Chairman to prepare a memorandum on possible follow-up to paragraph 14 of Assembly Resolution 1535;
- was informed of the public consultation organised by the European Commission with regard to the new Safer Internet Action Plan of the European Commission;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the next part-session of the Assembly (25-29 June).

The **Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage** (Committee on Culture, Science and Education) meeting in Strasbourg on 17 April 2007 with Mr Zingeris in the chair:

- held an exchange of views with Mr Phil Reed, Director of the Churchill Museum, London (winner of the 2006 Council of Europe Museum Prize) and Dr Isabelle Graesslé, Director of the International Museum of the Reformation, Geneva (winner of the 2007 Prize) and participated in the presentation ceremony held in Palais Rohan later that evening;
- discussed preparation of its joint Conference with CD-PAT on international instruments relating to cultural heritage to be held in Vilnius on 11-12 October 2007 and designated Mr Nachbar (France, EPP) rapporteur for the conference;
- designated Mr Olsson to the launching of European Heritage Day in Belgrade on 20-22 September 2007);
- took note that the General Rapporteur Mr O'Hara had participated in the hearing on the cultural heritage of Cyprus organised by the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament (Brussels, 11 April) but postponed further discussion in his absence;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the next part-session of the Assembly (25-29 June).

The **Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport** meeting in Strasbourg on 18 April 2007 with Mr Schneider in the chair:

- elected Mr Kozma (Hungary, SOC) Vice-Chairman by acclamation;
- held an exchange of views with Mrs de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on the Conference on sport and violence in Europe (Rennes, 1-5 April);
- held a first discussion on the European sport model: need of preservation (Rapporteur Mr Arnaut, Portugal, EPP) and agreed in principle to organise a hearing on the subject;
- was informed by Mrs Mirianashvili, Sport Department, DGIV, on preparations for the opening for signature of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport and encouraged action by members from countries that had not yet indicated their will to take part;
- was informed by Mr Raphael, Campaign Manager, and Mr Tekelioglu on the Youth Campaign Symposium on intercultural and interreligious dialogue (Istanbul, 28-31 March);
- decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the next part-session of the Assembly (25-29 June)

Christopher Grayson, João Ary, Rüdiger Dossow