

6 June 2007  
**Synopsis No 2007/25**

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

## Synopsis

of the meeting held in St Petersburg on 31 May and 1 June 2007

The **Committee on Culture, Science and Education** meeting in St Petersburg on 31 May and 1 June 2007 with Mr Legendre and then Mrs Brasseur in the chair:

- approved a report on *state, religion, secularity and human rights* (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC) and adopted unanimously a draft recommendation;
- approved a report on *blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion* (Rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC) and adopted a draft recommendation;
- approved a report on *the dangers of creationism in education* (Rapporteur: Mr Lengagne, France, SOC) and adopted a draft resolution;
- took note that these three reports would be debated jointly at the June Assembly part-session;
- was informed by Mrs Battaini-Dragoni, Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue, on the European Conference on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue (San Marino, 23-24 April 2007) and the related decision of the Committee of Ministers of 11 May;
- held a joint meeting with the Permanent Commissions on Culture, Information, Tourism and Sport and on Science and Education of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States at which information was exchanged on ongoing activity and in particular with regard to:
  - freedom of scientific research
  - education on European and Asian values
  - the Bologna Process
  - coordination of assistance from international organisations
  - cultural heritage: specific issues and related international instruments
  - youth and sport cooperation
  - freedom of expression and media freedom
  - culture of minorities
  - intercultural dialogue

and expressed an interest in continuing the 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  
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

- prepared and participated in a Conference on intercultural and interreligious dialogue together with the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States under the co-chairmanship of Mr Mironov, Chairman of the Council of the IPA CIS and Chairman of the Council of the Russian Federation, and Mr van der Linden, President of PACE, and participated in working panels co-chaired as follows
  - challenges and opportunities of cultural diversity (Mrs Brasseur)
  - the religious dimension of the intercultural dialogue (Mr Marquet)
  - the role of mass media and education in intercultural dialogue (Mr Walter)
  - intercultural dialogue and social interaction (Mrs Damanaki);
- expressed regret at the excessively narrow notion of human rights which had emerged from the debate on the state of democracy and human rights in Europe;
- appointed the following members in its sub-committees:
  - Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage: Mr Glavan (member) and Mr Tundrea (alternate), Romania;
  - Sub-Committee on the Media: Mr Laukkanen in place of Mrs Hurskainen, who became his alternate, Finland
  - Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport: Mr Laukkanen (member), Finland;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the next Assembly part-session (25-29 June 2007).

Christopher Grayson, João Ary and Rüdiger Dossow