



1 March 2011

## To the members of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

### Revised Synopsis of the meeting held in PARIS on 25 February 2011

The **Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs**, meeting in Paris on 25 February 2011, with Mrs Papadimitriou, second Vice-Chair (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Genetically modified organisms: A solution for the future?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Le Grand, France, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views, approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Reform of the Assembly**: held an exchange of views and instructed the Secretariat to draft, in the light of the discussion, a document for the attention of the ad hoc Committee of the Assembly;
- **The need for independent and credible assessment** (*Rapporteur: Mr Preda, Romania, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of **Mr Cicolella**, French National Institute of Environmental Industrial Risks (INERIS) and **Mr Petit**, the French Academy of Sciences;
- **The potential dangers of electromagnetic fields and their effect on the environment** (*Rapporteur: Mr Huss, Luxembourg, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of **Mr Belpomme**, President of the Association for Research and Treatments against Cancer (ARTAC), **Mr Cendrier**, Spokesman for the French NGO "Robin of the Roofs", **Mr Danjou**, Deputy Director General, Collège mobile, Federation of French Telecoms (FFT) and **Mr Gee**, Senior adviser, European Environmental Agency (EEA);
- **Water: a source of conflicts** (*Rapporteur: Mr Marquet, Monaco, ALDE*): approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution; took note of the revised draft programme for the Conference on Conventions on international waters: need for updating, to be held in Monaco on 22 March 2011;
- **Reforms of the Common Fisheries and the Common Agricultural Policies** (*Rapporteur: Mr Korkeaaja, Finland, ALDE*): held an exchange of views, approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Need to assess progress in implementation of the Bern Convention** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lotman, Estonia, UEL*): approved a technical amendment to the English version of the draft resolution (Doc. 12459);
- **The environmental impact of sunken shipwrecks** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Papadimitriou, Greece, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on a preliminary draft report;

- **Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes to the membership of its sub-committees;
- *Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development:* Mr Rouquet (France) full member (instead of Mr Peiro) and Mr Le Grand alternate (instead of Mrs Marin); Mr Ortel (Germany) alternate to Mrs Strenz (instead of Mr Röring); Mr Meale (United Kingdom) full member (and not alternate) and Mr Sheridan (United Kingdom) alternate to Mr Prescott (instead of Mr Meale);
- *Sub-Committee on Energy:* **Mr Loncle (France)** alternate to the Chair (Mrs Marin), Mr Sarikas (Cyprus) full member, Mr Skopal (Czech Republic) full member, Mr Peiro (France) full member, Mr Sheridan (United Kingdom) full member and Mr Donaldson his alternate;
- *Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize:* Mr Meale (United Kingdom) alternate to Mr Dobbin;
- **Reply by the Committee of Ministers:** took note of the reply to Recommendation 1918 (2010) on Biodiversity and climate change;
- The committee paid tribute to and thanked Mr Lluís Maria de Puig for his engagement and work for the Committee;
- **Future activities 2011-12:**
  - held an exchange of views on the committee's priorities and work programme for 2011-12;
  - took note of the report by Mr Meale on the 3<sup>rd</sup> General meeting of the national associations of local and regional authorities of member countries of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 16 September 2010);
  - held an exchange of views on follow up to be given to three motions for a resolution and decided as follows:
    - *Dangers of nuclear energy towards the environment* (Doc. 12273): instructed its Chairman to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to refer this motion to the Committee for report;
    - *Continuation of the Council of Europe dialogue in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea* (Doc. 12290): decided not to give any follow-up to this motion;
    - *Environmental mediation: a solution to congestion of the courts* (Doc. 12335): instructed its Chairman to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to refer this motion to the Committee for report;
  - held an exchange of views on the follow up to be given to Written Declaration n° 452 on a new energy model (Doc. 12322) and decided that the Committee would prepare a motion for a resolution on this issue;
- **Work Programme:**
  - appointed the following rapporteurs:
    - *The administrative organisation of large metropolises : a key to strengthening local democracy in Europe:* **Mrs Roseira** (Portugal, SOC);
    - *Nanotechnologies, a new danger to the environment?:* **Mr Sudarenikov** (Russian Federation, SOC);
    - *Food security and the environment:* **Mrs John-Calame** (Switzerland, SOC);

and heard from them statements concerning the absence of conflicts of interest;

  - appointed the following members to represent the committee (*subject to availability of sufficient funds*) at the:
    - Meeting of the CDLR (Strasbourg, 28-30 March): **Mr Meale**;
    - Meeting of the Association of Towns awarded the Europe Prize (Ankara, 7 May): **Mr Ünal**.

- Instructed its Chairman to ask the Bureau of the Assembly for the prolongation of 6 months of the references for report of the two following motions for a resolution : on the need for independent and credible assessments (Rapporteur: Mr Preda, Romania, EPP/CD) and on the potential danger of electromagnetic fields and their effect on the environment (Rapporteur: Mr Huss, Luxembourg, SOC);

- ***Forthcoming meetings:***

**Monaco**, 22 March 2011: Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development and Conference on Conventions on international waters: need for updating

**Strasbourg**, 11-15 April: plenary committee (during the Assembly part-session)

**Strasbourg**, 9-10 June 2011: plenary committee and Conference on water

**Strasbourg**, 3-7 October 2011: plenary committee (during the Assembly part-session)

A. Nollinger, D. Karanjac

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The **Sub-committee on Energy**, meeting in conjunction with the plenary meeting, elected **Mr Tulaev** (Russian Federation, EDG) Vice-Chairman.

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cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
 Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly  
 Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly  
 Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly  
 Observers to the Assembly

Secretary General of the Congress  
 Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
 Directors General  
 Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisational Development and Reform  
 Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
 Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights  
 Director of Communication

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe