



15 April 2011

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 11 and 14 April 2011

The **Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs**, meeting in Strasbourg on 11 and 14 April, with Mr Lotman, Chairman (Estonia), UEL) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Over-indebtedness of states: a danger for democracy and human rights** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Meale, United Kingdom, SOC*): approved a draft opinion and amendments to the report of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development;
- **The potential dangers of electromagnetic fields and their effect on the environment** (*Rapporteur: Mr Huss, Luxembourg, SOC*): heard a presentation by the Rapporteur, approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Reform of the Assembly**: held an exchange of views, approved a draft contribution of the Committee and agreed to transmit it to the ad hoc Committee on Reform;
- **Need to assess progress in implementation of the Bern Convention** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lotman, Estonia, UEL*): considered amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation and prepared the Assembly debate;
- **Rural women in Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs John-Calame, Switzerland, SOC*): prepared the Assembly debate;
- **Water: a source of conflicts** (*Rapporteur: Mr Marquet, Monaco, ALDE*): prepared the Assembly debate;
- **Europe Prize**: awarded the 2011 Europe Prize jointly to the two twinned towns: Landerneau (France) and Hünfeld (Germany); awarded 10 Plaques of honour, 17 Flags of honour and 18 European Diplomas, endorsing the proposals made by the Sub-Committee on Europe Prize (*see list appended*);
- **Conference on Conventions on International Waters: need for updating (Monaco, 22 March 2011)**: heard a report on the conference by Mr Joseph Falzon, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development;
- **Conference on the Parliamentary Process at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Strasbourg, 10 June 2011)**: considered a draft programme;
- **CIS programme: 4<sup>th</sup> Nevsky International Ecological Congress (St Petersburg, 16-17 May 2011)**: heard a statement by Mr Alan Meale;

- **Work Programme:**
  - appointed the following rapporteurs:
    - *The role of parliaments in the consolidation and development of social rights in Europe* (rapporteur for opinion on a report by the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee in the framework of the debate on “the situation of human rights in Europe” (June 2011 part-session)): **Mr Meale (United Kingdom, SOC)**;
    - *Investing in a low-carbon economy for growth and development* (rapporteur for opinion on a report by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development): **Mr Marquet (Monaco, ALDE)**;
    - *Energy diversification, a common European economic interest* (rapporteur for opinion on a report by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development): **Mrs Marin (France, EPP)**.
  - *appointed representatives to the following meetings:*
    - Meeting of the Association of Towns awarded the Europe Prize, Ankara (Turkey), 7 May 2011: **Mr Marquet** (*without expenses for the Assembly*)
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 8-13 May 2011, Geneva (Switzerland): **Mrs Marin** (*without expenses for the Assembly*)
    - Conference on obstacles to transfrontier co-operation, 2-3 June, Kharkiv (Ukraine): **Mr Doric**;
    - Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau for the Forum for Democracy 13-14 October, Cyprus: **the Chairman, Mrs Marin and Mr Meale**;
- **Sub-committees:** appointed **Mr Joan Sabate Borr** a member of the Sub-Committee on Energy and the Europe Prize and **Mr Sudarekov** member of Sub-Committee on Energy;

In addition, the committee

- paid tribute to the Chairman, Mr Aleksei Lotman and thanked him for his hard work and his devotion to the aims of the committee during his mandate;
- appointed Mr Dimitrios Papidimoulis (Greece, UEL) to represent it at the meetings of the Bureau and Standing Committee in Kiev to be held on 26 and 27 May 2011 respectively.

- **Forthcoming meetings:**

**Strasbourg**, 9-10 June 2011: plenary committee and Conference on the Parliamentary Process to the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum;

**Strasbourg**, 20-24 June 2011 (during the Assembly part-session);

**Strasbourg**, 3-7 October 2011 (during the Assembly part-session);

**Kiev**, 2-4 November 2011: Sub-Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (on the occasion of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government (*subject to authorisation of the Assembly Bureau*))

**Paris**, 28 November 2011 (*to be confirmed*).

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The **Sub-committee on Energy**, meeting on 13 April 2011, with Mrs Marin (France, EPP) in the Chair:

- observed one minutes' silence in commemoration of the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in March in Japan and expressed its deepest sympathy to Mr. Hiroshi KARUBE, General Consul of Japan;

- held an exchange of views on the consequences of nuclear catastrophes on the environment and security in Europe and future energy policy, with the participation of the following experts:

Mr Oisin BRADY, Director for France, Natural Power, United Kingdom

Mr Vladimir GRACHEV, Adviser, State Corporation "ROSATOM", Russian Federation Former Member of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Zacharie GROSS, Director AREVA Brussels

- left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

The **Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize** (Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs), meeting in Strasbourg on 12 April 2011, with Mr Alan Meale (United-Kingdom, Soc) in the Chair:

- proposed to award the Europe Prize 2011 jointly to the two twinned towns: Landerneau (France) and Hünfeld (Germany);
- proposed to award 10 Plaques of Honour, 17 Flags of Honour and 18 European Diplomas (**see Appendix**);
- decided to meet in:
  - **Strasbourg**, during the Assembly part-session of June 2011, on the occasion of the presentation ceremony of the European Diplomas 2011 to awarded towns;
  - **Landerneau and Hünfeld**, on the occasion of the official presentation ceremony of the Europe Prize 2011 to each of the two winners (dates to be decided).

A. Nollinger, D. Karanjac, O.Kostenko

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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

## APPENDIX

### List of proposals for the award of the distinctions

The Sub-Committee decided to submit to the approval of the Plenary Committee the applications of the following towns:

#### 1. EUROPE PRIZE

**LANDERNEAU (France) and HÜNFELD (Germany)**

*(the prize being awarded jointly to both towns)*

#### 2. PLAQUES OF HONOUR (10)

Austria	St Georgen am Walde (Upper Austria)
Belgium	Evergem (eastern Flanders) <i>together with Großenkneten (D)</i>
France	Chauray (Deux-Sèvres)
Germany	Durach (Bavaria)
	Großenkneten (Lower Saxony) <i>together with Evergem</i>
	Kuppenheim (Baden-Württemberg)
	Rheine (North Rhine-Westphalia)
	WeinStadt (Baden-Württemberg)
Lithuania	Šilutė (Klaipėda County)
Poland	Będzin (woj. Śląskie)

#### 3. FLAGS OF HONOUR (17)

France	Alfortville (Val-de-Marne)
	Arnage (Sarthe)
Georgia	Tbilisi
Germany	Erlangen (Bavaria)
	Flotwedel (Lower-Saxony)
	Gerbrunn (Bavaria)
	Kosel (Schleswig-Holstein)
	Montabaur (Rhineland-Palatinate)
	Puchheim (Bavaria)
Italy	Fortezza/Franzensfeste (Prov. de Bolzano)
Lithuania	Birzai (Panevezys County)
Poland	Barlinek (woj. Zachodniopomorskie)
	Serock (woj. Mazowieckie)
	Wałcz (woj. Zachodniopomorskie)
Spain	Sant Joan de les Abadesses (Catalonia)
Ukraine	Lutsk (Volyn Oblast)
United Kingdom	Perth (Scotland)

#### 4. EUROPEAN DIPLOMAS (18)

Croatia	Cres
France	Langeais (Indre-et-Loire)
	Le Vésinet (Yvelines)
	Massy (Essonne)
	Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie)
Germany	Bergen auf Rügen (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania)
	Göttingen (Lower-Saxony)
	Jettingen (Baden-Württemberg)
	Nauheim (Hessen)
	Straubing (Bavaria)
Italy	Cervia (Province of Ravenna)
Poland	Jabłonka (woj. Małopolskie)
	Korfantów (woj. Opolskie)
	Puławy (woj. Lubelskie)
	Sopot (woj. Pomorskie)
	Sulęcín (woj. Lubuskie)
Russia	Belgorod
	Volgograd