

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2002/034  
21 March 2002

**The Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Paris on 18 March 2002 with Mrs Wohlwend in the Chair, as regards:

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)*: considered the list of candidates on behalf of Sweden, and recommended that the Assembly's Bureau transmit it to the Committee of Ministers indicating the Sub-Committee's order of preference;
- *Next meetings*:
  - . Tokyo (Japan), 27-28 May 2002 (Seminar on the abolition of the death penalty) (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau)
  - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's April 2002 part-session

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, meeting in Paris on 18-19 March 2002 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Protection of minorities in Belgium* (Rapporteur: Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger, Switzerland, LDR): considered, amended and adopted a draft resolution and a draft order submitted by the Rapporteur and instructed her to present her report to the Assembly at the April 2002 part-session;
- *Legal situation of Roma in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Tabajdi, Hungary, SOC): considered, amended and adopted a draft recommendation submitted by the Rapporteur and instructed him to present his report to the Assembly at the April 2002 part-session;
- *Russia's law on religion* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): considered, amended and adopted a draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur and instructed him to present it to the Assembly at the April 2002 part-session;

- *Law regarding the Hungarians living in neighbouring countries, adopted on 19 June 2001 by the Hungarian Parliament and Transfrontier co-operation in preserving the identity of national minorities* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): in the absence of the Rapporteur, was informed of his visits to Budapest and Bratislava on 12-13 March 2002 and asked him to go also to Belgrade and Bucharest;
- *Situation in Belarus* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Svoboda, Czech Republic, EPP/CD): decided to hold an exchange of views with the wives of missing persons or prisoners at one of its meetings during the April 2002 part-session;
- *Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe observer States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and took note of an outline programme for the Seminar on the abolition of the death penalty which the Sub-Committee on Human Rights will hold in Tokyo (Japan) on 27-28 May 2002 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
- *Appointment of Rapporteurs:*
  - i. Combating child abduction: Mrs Auken (Denmark, UEL)
  - ii. Ratification of the protocols to the European Convention on Human Rights: Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC)
  - iii. The Ombudsman institution: Mrs van Ardenne-van der Hoeven (Netherlands, EPP/CD)
  - iv. Euthanasia (for opinion): Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC)
- *Appointment of members to conferences, meetings, seminars, etc:*
  - . European Committee against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Strasbourg, 19-21 March 2002: Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC)
  - . Public hearing on "The respect for fundamental rights: situation within the European Union in 2002", organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs, Brussels, 17 April 2002: Mr Magnusson (Sweden, SOC) and Mr Marty (Switzerland, LDR);
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:* appointed Mr Federov (Russia, EDG) as alternate member for Mr Shishlov;
- *Protection of sign language in member States* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): asked its Chairperson to write to the national delegations of some members States to obtain information on the situation regarding sign language;
- *Conditions of detention in Council of Europe member States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD): held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Mr Kauko Aromaa, Director, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, Helsinki
  - Mr Andrei Babushkin, Head of the Committee of Civil Rights, Moscow
  - Mrs Silvia Casale, Chairperson of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)
  - Mr Andrew Coyle, Director, International Centre for Prison Studies, King's College, London
  - Mr Eric Prokosh, Programme Officer, Campaign for the Prevention of Torture, Amnesty International, London
  - Mr Aaron Rhodes, Executive Director, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Vienna
  - Mr Guy de Vel, Director General of Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe

- *Next meetings:*

*Plenary Committee:*

- . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's April 2002 part-session
- . Paris, Friday 17 May 2002 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
- . Saratov (Russian Federation), 13-14 June 2002 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau)

*Sub-Committee on Human Rights:*

- . Tokyo (Japan), 27-28 May 2002 (Seminar on the abolition of the death penalty) (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau)
- . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's April 2002 part-session

Danielle Coin, David Čupina

---

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly  
Directors and staff of the 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  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Director of Communication and Research  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe