

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2002/056 revised

2 May 2002

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 23 April 2002 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Russia's law on religion* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution;
- *Protection of minorities in Belgium* (Rapporteur: Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger, Switzerland, LDR): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution;
- *Situation in the Middle-East* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): considered a report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee, and considered and approved a draft opinion presented by the Rapporteur, including five amendments;
- *Sub-Committee on the election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights*: reconstituted the Sub-Committee as follows:

Socialist Group

Titular members

Boriss CILEVICS	Latvia
Jerzy JASKIERNIA	Poland
Erik JURGENS	Netherlands
Kevin McNAMARA (<i>Chairman</i>)	United Kingdom
Jean-Pierre MICHEL	France

Alternates

Alexander ARABADJIEV	Bulgaria
Rudolf BINDIG	Germany
Tayyibe GÜLEK	Turkey
Ionel OLTEANU	Romania

Group of the European People's PartyTitular members

Gustavo de ARISTEGUI	Spain
Vasyl KOSTYTSKY	Ukraine
Michael SPINDELEGGER	Austria
Renate WOHLWEND	Liechtenstein

Alternates

Stavros DIMAS	Greece
Thomas ENRIGHT	Ireland
György FRUNDA	Romania
Gultakin HAJIYEVA	Azerbaijan

Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' GroupTitular members

Ignasi GUARDANS	Spain
Lili NABHOLZ-HAIDEGGER	Switzerland

Alternate

Georges CLERFAYT	Belgium
Anneli JÄÄTTEENMÄKI	Finland
Valeriu STOICA	Romania
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European Democratic GroupTitular members

Cevdet AKCALI (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	Turkey
John WILKINSON	United Kingdom

Alternates

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Group of the Unified European LeftTitular members

Nickolay CHAKLEIN	Russia
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Alternate

Margrete AUKEN	Denmark
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ex officio: Mr Eduard LINTNER, Germany

The Sub-Committee on the election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights
(of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 23 April 2002 with Mr McNamara, oldest member present, in the Chair

- elected Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) Chairperson by acclamation;
- elected Mr Akçali (Turkey, EDG), Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 24 April 2002 with Mr Linter in the Chair, as regards:

- *Situation in Belarus* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Svoboda, Czech Republic, EPP/CD): was informed by its Chairperson that a hearing with wives of missing persons in Belarus would be held at its next meeting in Paris on 17 May 2002;
- *Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Manzella, Italy, SOC): was informed of the results of a meeting between a delegation led by the President of the National Council of Monaco and the Rapporteurs on the membership application and authorised the Rapporteur to go to Monaco on 10-11 June 2002 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
- *International Conference: The Council of Europe's contribution to the European Union acquis* (Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain), 3-4 June 2002): constituted the following *ad hoc* sub-committee to participate in this conference: Mr Hunault (France, EDG), Mr Khripel (Russia, SOC), Mr Kresák (Slovakia, LDR), Mrs Lopez Gonzalez (Spain, SOC), Mr Magnusson (Sweden, SOC) and Mr Zavgayev (Russia, EDG) (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:* appointed the following representative:
 - . European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") (Venice, 5-6 July 2002) and Working Group on electoral matters (Venice, 3 (afternoon) - 4 (morning) July 2002): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC) as its representative, and Mr Kresák (Slovakia, LDR) if Mr Jurgens is unable;
- *Fundamental rights and freedoms of the Greek Cypriots and the Maronites living in the Northern area of Cyprus* (Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, LDR): decided to postpone this item until one of its meetings during the June 2002 part-session, and to ask the Bureau for the reference to be prolonged beyond 16 May 2002.

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 25 April 2002 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Legal situation of the Roma in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Tabajdi, Hungary, SOC): took position on the amendments to the draft recommendation;
- *"Lawless areas" within the territory of Council of Europe member States* (Rapporteur: Mr Magnusson, Sweden, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur and agreed on the principle of organising a colloquy on the matter;
- *Conflict in the Chechen Republic* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): heard a statement by its Rapporteur on the meeting of the Joint Working Group on Chechnya, held on 23 April 2002;

- *Ending the misdiagnosing of children*: appointed Ms Gülek (Turkey, SOC) as its Rapporteur for opinion;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.*
 - . Conference of Prosecutors General of Europe, organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Prosecutor General of Slovenia (Ljubljana, 12-14 May 2002): Mr Pellicini (Italy, EDG);
 - . European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) (Strasbourg, 27-31 May 2002): Mr Pellicini (Italy, EDG);
 - . Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) (Strasbourg, 13-17 May 2002): Mr Akçali (Turkey, EDG)
 - . Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) (Strasbourg, 3-5 June 2002): left it to the Chairperson to appoint a representative;
- *Next meetings*:
 - . Paris, Friday 17 May 2002 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
 - . Saratov (Russian Federation), 13-14 June 2002
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June 2002 part-session

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 April 2002 with Mrs Wohlwend in the Chair, as regards:

- *Conviction of Grigory Pasko* (Rapporteur: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): held an exchange of views with Mr Gauslaa and Mr Pavlov, Mr Pasko's lawyers;
- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)*: considered the list of candidates to the CPT on behalf of Ukraine, and recommended that the Assembly's Bureau transmit it to the Committee of Ministers indicating the Sub-Committee's order of preference;
- *Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe observer States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Chairperson on the preparation of the Seminar to take place in Tokyo (Japan) on 27-28 May 2002;
- *Next meetings*:
 - . Tokyo (Japan), 27-28 May 2002 (Seminar on the abolition of the death penalty)
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June 2002 part-session

The *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on the situation of political prisoners in Azerbaijan (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting *in camera* in Strasbourg on 24 and 25 April 2002, jointly with the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on the situation of political prisoners in Azerbaijan (of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe), with Mr Clerfayt, oldest member present, in the Chair:

- elected Mr Clerfayt (Belgium, LDR) Chairperson;
- defined its mandate and working methods;
- agreed to meet again in Strasbourg during the June 2002 part-session, and to invite to an exchange of views the persons responsible for the matter within the Council of Europe.