



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

### Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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**The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, meeting in Paris on 17 May 2002 with Mr Lintner, then Mr Magnusson, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Protection of minorities in Belgium* (Rapporteur: Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger, Switzerland, LDR): heard a statement by Mr Bartole, member of the Working Group of the European Commission for Democracy through law ("Venice Commission") which had prepared an opinion on this issue, considered a draft report presented by the Rapporteur, decided to invite the experts proposed by some Dutch-speaking Belgian members of the Assembly, and the experts of the Venice Commission to its first meeting during the June 2002 part-session, and instructed its Chairperson to write a letter to the President of the Assembly asking him to postpone the debate on this report until the September 2002 part-session;
- *Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's request for membership of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Lippelt, Germany, LDR): instructed its Chairperson to write to the President of the Assembly informing him that it was opposed to the Political Affairs Committee's request to accelerate the accession procedure and the inscription of the item on the agenda of the order of business of the June 2002 part-session, in order to give the Committee reasonable time to prepare its opinion;
- *Situation in Belarus* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Svoboda, Czech Republic, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views with relatives of persons who had disappeared in Belarus, instructed its Chairperson to ask the Bureau to ensure that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on Belarus, which will visit Minsk on 10-12 June 2002, raised this matter with the authorities with a view to insisting on the necessity to clarify these disappearances without further delay. The Committee also expressed the wish that this Ad Hoc Committee meets with relatives of the missing persons during its visit;
- *Implementation by Turkey of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered a draft report submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *Implementation of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights: Hakkar case* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): took note of the Rapporteur's suggestion that members of the Committee forward to the French Minister of Justice the letter which Mr Hakkar had sent to Mr Jurgens;
- *"Lawless areas" within the territory of Council of Europe member States* (Rapporteur: Mr Magnusson, Sweden, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur, asked him to submit a revised version of it, and decided to organise a colloquy on the matter;

- *Controlling the diagnosis and treatment of hyperactive children in Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Gülek, Turkey, SOC): appointed Mrs van Ardenne-van der Hoeven (Netherlands, EP/CD) Rapporteur, replacing Mrs Gülek, to present an opinion at the Standing Committee in Lucerne (29 May 2002);
- *Right to association for members of the professional staff of the armed forces* (Rapporteur: Mrs van Ardenne-van der Hoeven, Netherlands, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:* heard reports on:
  - Working Group on cooperation in electoral matters (of the Venice Commission) (Venice, 7 March 2002): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)
  - Group of States against Corruption (Strasbourg, 13-16 May 2002): Mr Akçali (Turkey, EDG);
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:* appointed Mr Jansson (Finland, LDR) as a titular member and Mr Hunault (France, GDE) as an alternate member;
- *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the International Conference: The Council of Europe's contribution to the European Union acquis* (Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain), 3-4 June 2002): appointed Mr Jansson (Finland, LDR) as a member;
- *Meeting in Saratov (Russian Federation) (13-14 June 2002):* considered and approved a draft programme;
- accepted an invitation from the Delegation of the United Kingdom to meet in Edinburgh (Scotland) in 2003 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
- *Next meetings:*
  - Plenary Committee:*
    - . Saratov (Russian Federation), 13-14 June 2002
    - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June 2002 part-session
    - . Paris, Friday 2 September 2002 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe's Paris Office) (to be confirmed)
  - Sub-Committee on Human Rights:*
    - . Tokyo (Japan), 27-28 May 2002 (Seminar on the abolition of the death penalty)
    - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June 2002 part-session