



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 Strasbourg on 24, 25 and 27 June 2002 with Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP/CD), and Mr Magnusson (Sweden, SOC) on 25 June at 14h, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's application for membership of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Lippelt, Germany, LDR): considered, amended and adopted a draft opinion submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *Preferential treatment of national minorities by their kin-state: the case of the Hungarian Status Law of 19 June 2001* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): held an exchange of views on the revised draft report submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *Protection of minorities in Belgium* (Rapporteur: Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger, Switzerland, LDR): held an exchange of views with Mr Eric Suy, expert, and Messrs Matscher and Malinverni, Rapporteurs of the Venice Commission;
- *Religious freedom and religious minorities in France* (Rapporteur: Mr Akçali, Turkey, EDG): held an exchange of views with Professor Joseph Voyame, expert, and asked its Rapporteur to prepare a draft report on the basis of this exchange of views and the memorandum submitted by the expert;
- *Implementation by Turkey of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): was informed of the Rapporteur's contacts with the Turkish delegation and postponed further consideration and adoption of the draft report until the Committee's meeting on 2 September 2002;
- *Situation in Belarus* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Svoboda, Czech Republic, EPP/CD): agreed to state to the Bureau its intention to establish an *ad hoc* sub-committee to clarify the circumstances of disappearances for allegedly political reasons in Belarus;
- *Prevention of recidivism of crimes against minors* (Rapporteur: Mr Chaklein, Russia, UEL): considered a preliminary draft report submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *OSCE 2002 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (Warsaw, 9-19 September 2002)*: appointed Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD) as the Committee's representative at the exchange of views on the abolition of the death penalty (10 September), with Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) if Mrs Wohlwend is prevented from attending;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc.*: heard a report on the International Conference on the Council of Europe's contribution to the European Union acquis (Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain; 3-4 June 2002) by Mr Magnusson (Sweden, SOC), member of the *ad hoc* sub-committee;

- *Appointment of Rapporteurs:*
 - i. Rights of persons held in the custody of the United States in Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay: Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC);
 - ii. Political prisoners in Europe: Mr Clerfayt (Belgium, LDR);
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:* appointed Mrs Tevdoradze (Georgia, EDG) as a member;
- *Next meetings:*
 - . Paris, Friday 2 September 2002 at 9 h 30 (Palais du Luxembourg)
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's September 2002 part-session

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights, of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 June 2002 with Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):* considered the candidatures in respect of Spain, Moldova, Germany and Croatia and recommended that the Assembly's Bureau transmit them to the Committee of Ministers indicating the order of preference proposed by the Sub-Committee;
- *Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe observer states* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD):
 - . heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the seminar which took place in Tokyo (Japan) on 27-28 May 2002;
 - . considered a letter from the Mexican delegation concerning Mexican citizens awaiting execution in the USA and asked its Chairperson to write a letter to the US authorities on this matter;
 - . considered the reply from the Committee of Ministers to Assembly resolution 1522 (2001) on the abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe observer states;
- *Next meeting:*
 - . Strasbourg, during the September 2002 part-session of the Assembly.

Danielle Coin, Petr Sich, David Cupina, David Milner

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
 Director General to the Assembly
 Director 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