



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2002/120
29 October 2002

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 28 October 2002 with Mr Magnusson, 1st Vice-Chairperson in the Chair, as regards:

- *Work programme of the Committee*: took note of a document prepared by the Secretariat listing references in the order in which they would lapse;
- *Fundamental rights and freedoms of the Greek Cypriots and the Maronites living in the northern area of Cyprus* (Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, LDR): postponed consideration and adoption of a draft resolution until its next meeting;
- *Areas where the European Convention on Human Rights cannot be implemented* (Rapporteur: Mr Magnusson, Sweden, SOC): took note of the draft programme of the Colloquy to take place in Paris on 26 November 2002;
- *Prevention of recidivism of crimes against minors* (Rapporteur: Mr Chaklein, Russia, UEL): considered, amended and adopted a draft recommendation submitted by the Rapporteur, to be presented at the next Standing Committee meeting in Malta (18 November 2002);
- *Residence, legal status and freedom of movement of migrant workers in Europe: lessons from the case of Portugal*: appointed Mr Budin (Italy, SOC) as Rapporteur for opinion to replace Mr Pollozhani and considered, amended and approved an opinion submitted by the Rapporteur, to be presented at the next Standing Committee meeting in Malta (18 November 2002);
- *Role of the Public Prosecutor's Office in a democratic society governed by the rule of law* (Rapporteur: Mr Arabadjiev, Bulgaria, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur and approved a questionnaire to be sent to national delegations for reply by the end of January 2003;
- *Draft additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption*: appointed Mr Hunault (France, EDG) as its Rapporteur and considered and adopted a draft opinion submitted by the Rapporteur, to be presented at the next Standing Committee meeting in Malta (18 November 2002);
- *Religious freedom and religious minorities in France* (Rapporteur: Mr Akçali, Turkey, EDG): considered, amended and adopted a draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur, to be presented at the next Standing Committee meeting in Malta (18 November 2002);
- *Harmonisation of criminal law in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Olteanu, Romania, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur;

- *Conviction of Grigory Pasko* (Rapporteur: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur and approved his proposals for further action, including a meeting with the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and a visit to Mr Pasko, currently in prison;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:* heard reports from its representatives on:
 - International Seminar to assess the more enduring negative consequences and new opportunities for Human Rights Defenders after 11 September 2001 (Crete (Greece), 18-21 September 2002), organised by the Martin Ennals Foundation for Human Rights Defenders: Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP);
 - Conference on "The media in a democratic society: reconciling freedom of expression with the protection of human rights", organised by the Luxembourg Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, Mondorf-les-Bains (Luxembourg), 30 September – 1 October 2002: Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC);
 - Parliamentary Conference on the Stability Pact (Tirana, 14-16 October 2002): Mr Davis (UK, SOC);
 - Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 1-4 October 2002): Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC);

appointed representatives to:

- Group of Specialists on freedom of expression and other fundamental rights (MM-S-FR) (Strasbourg, 28-30 October 2002): Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC);
- 2nd Round Table with National Human Rights Institutions / 4th European Meeting of National Institutions (Belfast and Dublin, 14-16 November 2002): Mr Akçali (Turkey, EDG);
- Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) (Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2002): Mr Asciak (Malta, EPP);
- European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") (Venice, 13-14 December 2002): Mr Piscitello (Italy, LDR);
- *Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:* took note of the replies to the following recommendations:
 - i. Composition of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) (Rec 1542 (2001))
 - ii. Structures, procedures and means of the European Court of Human Rights (Rec 1535 (2001))
 - iii. Towards a uniform interpretation of Council of Europe conventions: creation of a general judicial authority (Rec 1458 (2000))
 - iv. Rights of national minorities (Rec 1492 (2001))
- *Political prisoners in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR): decided to hold an exchange of views with experts on this matter at its meeting in Paris on 25 November 2002;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:* appointed Mr Arabadjiev (Bulgaria, SOC) (alternate: Mr Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP) as a new member and agreed that Mr Mooney (Ireland, LDR) (alternate: Mr Daly (Ireland, LDR)) replace Mr Enright as a member; and that Mr Shybko (Ukraine, SOC) become the alternate of Mr Holovaty;
- *Sub-Committee on Penal Law and Criminology:* agreed that Mr Daly (Ireland, LDR) (alternate: Mr Mooney (Ireland, LDR)) replace Mr Enright as a member;

- *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to clarify the circumstances of disappearances for allegedly political reasons in Belarus*: appointed Mr Bruce (United Kingdom, LDR) as a member;

- *Next meetings*:

Plenary Committee:

- . Paris, Monday 25 November 2002 at 9 h 30 (World Bank) and
- . Paris, Tuesday 26 November 2002 at 9 h (Colloquy on "Areas where the European Convention on Human Rights cannot be implemented") (World Bank)
- . Paris, Monday 16 December 2002 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
- . Paris, Friday 10 January 2003 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
- . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's January 2003 part-session

Ad hoc Sub-Committee to clarify the circumstances of disappearances for allegedly political reasons in Belarus:

- . Paris, Wednesday 27 November 2002, 9 h 30 – 13 h (Council of Europe Office)

Danielle Coin, Petr Sich, David Čupina, 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