



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2002/129
2 December 2002

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 25 and 26 November 2002 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *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 recommendation submitted by the Rapporteur until one of its meetings in January 2003;
- *Preferential treatment of national minorities by their kin-state: the case of the Hungarian Law of 19 June 2001 on ethnic Hungarians living in neighbouring countries* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered a revised draft resolution and draft order submitted by the Rapporteur, postponed their adoption until its next meeting, and authorised the Rapporteur to visit Hungary, Romania and Slovakia;
- *Political prisoners in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and decided to seek advice from the independent experts of the Secretary General, the Venice Commission and, possibly, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Helsinki Federation;
- *Office of Lord Chancellor in the constitutional system of the United Kingdom* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to London on 21-23 October 2002;
- *Rights of National Minorities: implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe member states* (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to implement Resolution 1272 (2002) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan*: appointed Mr Hunault (France, GDE) as a new member to replace Mr Pollozhani;
- *Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe observer States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on preparations for a seminar to be held in the United States of America;

- *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
 - Consultative Status for NGOs – European Federation of Research and information Centres on Sectarism (FECRIS): Mrs Hajiyeva (Azerbaijan, EPP);
 - Draft Additional Protocol to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism: Mrs Alvarez-Arenas (Spain, EPP)
 - *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:* heard reports from its representatives on:
 - Group of Specialists on freedom of expression and other fundamental rights (MM-S-FR) (Strasbourg, 28-30 October 2002): Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC);
 - Parliamentary Conference on Minorities in the Enlarged European Union, organised by the Danish Parliament (Copenhagen, 6-7 November 2002): Mr Budin (Italy, 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);
- appointed representatives to:
- European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 10-13 December 2002): Mr McNamara (UK, SOC);
 - Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), (Strasbourg, 9-13 December 2002): Mr Hunault (France, EDG);
 - Venice Commission (Venice, 13-14 December 2002): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC) and Mr Piscitello (Italy, LDR);
- *Areas where the European Convention on Human Rights cannot be implemented* (Rapporteur: Mr Magnusson, Sweden, SOC): held a colloquy with the participation of the following experts:
 - Mr Alvaro Gil-Robles, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
 - Mr Patrick Baudouin, Honorary President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
 - Professor Françoise Hampson, University of Essex (United Kingdom)
 - Ms Patricia Jaspis, lawyer (Brussels)
 - Professor Rick Lawson, Kirchheiner Chair of Protection of the integrity of the individual, University of Leyde (Netherlands)
 - Mr Mark Villiger, Deputy Section Registrar at the European Court of Human Rights
 - *Next meetings:*
 - . 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
 - . Paris, Monday 3 March 2003 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)

Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to clarify the circumstances of disappearances for allegedly political reasons in Belarus, of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 27 November 2002 with M. McNamara, Vice-Chairperson in the Chair:

- heard a statement by the Vice-Chairperson;
- considered information obtained since its last meeting;
- decided to send a letter to MM Abramov, Frolov and Novosyad to ask for information about the fate of the missing persons;
- decided to meet the delegation of the Parliament of Belarus and the representatives of the opposition on the occasion of the January 2003 part of session, including at least MM Abramov, Frolov and Novosyad;
- decided to meet persons living abroad who could provide further information about the disappearances in question;
- decided to go to Minsk in 2003;
- *Next meeting:*
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's January 2003 part-session

Danielle Coin, 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