



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2002/138
20 December 2002

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 16 December 2002 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Proposed amendments to the constitution of Liechtenstein*: was informed of the content of a letter submitted by Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), agreed to request of the Bureau that an urgent debate be held on the issue during the January part-session of the Assembly;
- *Draft protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism* (Rapporteur: Mrs Alvarez-Arenas, Spain, EPP): considered, amended and adopted a draft opinion submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *Protection of sign languages in member States* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Stockholm and Helsinki on 9 - 12 December 2002;
- *Eliminating excessively restrictive practices for issuing visas to citizens of east European States* (Rapporteur: Mr Shybko, Ukraine, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur, agreed to change the title of the report to "Consequences of European Union enlargement for freedom of movement between Council of Europe member states" and invite an academic expert at one of its meetings on the occasion of the January part-session, as well as a representative of the European Commission;
- *Harmonisation of criminal law in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Olteanu, Romania, SOC): considered an information note submitted by the Rapporteur and agreed to hold a colloquy at one of its forthcoming meetings;
- *Conviction of Grigory Pasko* (Rapporteur: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Russia on 27 and 28 November 2002;
- *Situation in Belarus* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Stankevič, Lithuania, LDR): heard a statement by the Rapporteur,
 - decided to prepare a written declaration concerning the freedom of expression in Belarus,
 - demanded that a representative of the opposition parliamentary group "Respublika" should be part of the delegation of the Belarus Parliament present in Strasbourg during the January 2003 part-session,

- took note of the rapporteur's proposals that a seminar on the abolition of the death penalty should be organised in Belarus in May-June 2003, that a small Committee's delegation should visit Belarus and meet the recently condemned journalists;
- *Conflict in the Chechen Republic* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to visit Moscow, Chechnya and Ingushetia on 20-25 January 2003 together with the rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee;
- *Freedom of expression in the media* (Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education: Mrs Tytti Isohookana-Asunmaa, Finland, LDR): decided to ask the Bureau to refer this question to the Committee for opinion;
- *Racism, xenophobia and intolerance* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): agreed to a proposal by its Rapporteur to change the title of his report on "Racism, xenophobia and intolerance: the rise of far-right wing political parties in Europe" to "Racist, xenophobic and intolerant discourse in politics";

- *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
 - Globalisation and sustainable development (for opinion): appointed Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC);
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:*
 - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 10-13 December 2002): heard a report from Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC);
- *Ad Hoc Sub-committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:* was informed by its Chairperson, Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) about the submission of a new list of candidates to the ECHR by the Spanish government and took note that a meeting would be held on 9 January 2003 at 5 pm;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:* took note that a meeting will be held on 10 January at 9 am to examine the list of candidates to the CPT in respect of Slovenia;
- *International Criminal Court:* agreed to invite a representative on Human Rights Watch at one of its meetings during the January 2003 part-session;
- *Next meetings:*
 - . Paris, Friday 10 January 2003 at 9.30 am (Council of Europe Office)
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's January 2003 part-session
 - . Paris, Monday 3 March 2003 at 9.30 am (Council of Europe Office)
 - . Berlin (Germany), Tuesday 29 April 2003

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
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