



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2003/60
12 May 2003

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Berlin (Germany) on 29 April 2003 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Hearing on the rights of national minorities* (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): held a colloquy with the participation of:
 - Mr Alfred Hartenbach, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Justice
 - Dr Detlev Rein, Head of the Section on National Minorities, Federal Ministry of the Interior
 - Mr Gaspar Biro, Vice-President of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
 - Mr Stefan Oeter, Vice-President of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
 - Mrs Mme Zdenka Machnyikova, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
 - Mr Mark Lattimer, Director of Minority Rights Group (MRG)and took note of a draft report submitted by the Rapporteur which it decided to consider at its next meeting;
- *Rights of persons held in the custody of the United States in Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): considered, amended and adopted a draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *The United States of America and respect for international law obligations* (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): approved an outline report submitted by the Rapporteur;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc*: appointed the following representative:
 - 5th Meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission) (Venice, 12 June 2003) and meeting of the European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") (Venice, 13-14 June 2003): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC);

- *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
 - Italian law on legitimate suspicion: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (Germany, LDR);
 - Internet and the law: Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP);
 - Trafficking in organs in Europe (for opinion): Mr Dees (Netherlands, LDR);
- *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the implementation of Resolution 1272 (2002) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan:* appointed Mr Wilkinson (United Kingdom, EDG) as a new member to replace Mr Hunault;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:* appointed Mr Meelak (Estonia, LDR) as a member;
- *New Bulgarian Law on Religion known as the Confessions Act 2002* (Rapporteur: Mr Contestabile, Italy, EPP): authorised the Rapporteur to go to Bulgaria for the preparation of his report;
- *Charter of European Parties for a non-racist society:* authorised Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) to go to Strasbourg to meet with the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- *Violation of the human rights of the Bulgarian national minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* (Rapporteur: Mr Solé Tura, Spain, SOC): instructed its Rapporteur to submit an outline report at one of its next meetings;
- *Next meetings*
 - Paris, Thursday 5 June 2003 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June 2003 part-session
 - Edinburgh (Scotland), 17-18 September 2003 (*subject to the authorisation of the Assembly's Bureau*)
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's September 2003 part-session

Danielle Coin, David Čupina

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