



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2003/73

11 June 2003

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 5 June 2003 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Institution of Ombudsman* (Rapporteur: Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger, Switzerland, LDR): held a colloquy with the participation of Mr Ian Harden, Head of the Legal Department, Office of the European Ombudsman and Mrs Maria de Jesus Serra Lopes, representing the Venice Commission;
- *Political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR): considered, amended and adopted a draft recommendation;
- *Rights of national minorities* (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevics, Latvia, SOC): considered, amended and adopted a draft recommendation;
- *Environment and human rights* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): approved an opinion;
- *International Criminal Court*: heard a statement by the Chairperson regarding bilateral exemption agreements and asked him to write to the President of the Assembly supporting the position he had voiced at the Stability Pact Conference in Brussels and asking him to draw attention to Resolution 1300 (2002) during the June part-session;
- *Ad hoc Sub-Committee to clarify the circumstances of disappearances for allegedly political reasons in Belarus* (Chairperson: Mr S. Kovalev): heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting which took place on 5 June 2003 at 9 h.;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.*: appointed the following representatives:
 - Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Strasbourg, 17-20 June 2003: Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC);
 - European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), Strasbourg, 16-20 June 2003: Mr Hunault (France, EPP), or if he is unable to attend, Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC);
 - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 24-27 June 2002): Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC);

- *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
 - Petition concerning human rights of linguistic minorities in the Canton of Zurich: Mrs Hakl (Austria, EPP)
 - Disappeared persons in Belarus: Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP)
 - Threats to the International Criminal Court: Mr Marty (Switzerland, LDR)
 - The concept of "nation": Mr Frunda (Romania, EPP);
- *The Council of Europe and the EU Convention on the future of Europe:* appointed Mr Spindelegger (Austria, EPP) rapporteur for opinion, subject to the decision of the Assembly on the request for urgent procedure and instructed the Chairperson to write to the President of the Assembly informing him that the Committee is ready to submit its opinion in writing;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:* appointed Mr Martins (Portugal, SOC) as a member;
- *Situation of European prisons and pre-trial detention centres* (Rapporteur: Mr Hunault, France, EPP): authorised the Rapporteur to make a fact-finding visit to Poland, Russia and Turkey for the preparation of his report;
- *Next meetings:*
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June 2003 part-session
 - . Edinburgh (Scotland), 17-18 September 2003
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's September 2003 part-session
 - . Paris, Monday 3 November 2003 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
 - . Paris, Monday 15 December 2003 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)

The 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 5 June 2003 with Mr S. Kovalev in the Chair:

- had an exchange of views on the possible organisation of a meeting in Minsk to meet persons who could provide it with necessary information;
- instructed its Chairperson to inform the plenary Committee about the state of the Sub-Committee's work;
- decided to meet again during the June 2003 part-session.

Günter Schirmer, 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 of the Council of Europe
 Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
 Director of Communication and Research

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe