

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2003/94
3 July 2003

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 23 June 2003 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Threats to the International Criminal Court* (Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, LDR): agreed to request a debate under the urgent procedure;
- *Areas where the European Convention on Human Rights cannot be implemented* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP): took position on amendments;
- *Positive experiences of autonomous regions as a source of inspiration for conflict resolution in Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered a report by the Political Affairs Committee and considered and approved a draft opinion;

and resuming its meeting on 24 June 2003 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Threats to the International Criminal Court* (Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, LDR): considered and adopted a draft resolution;
- *Rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots and the Maronites living in the Northern area of Cyprus* (Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, LDR): heard a statement by the representatives of the political forces of the Northern area of Cyprus and took position on amendments;
- *Trafficking in organs in Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Dees, Netherlands, LDR): considered a report by the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and considered and approved a draft opinion;
- *Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Manzella, Italy, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Monaco on 2-3 June 2003 and supported his proposal not to wait for the renegotiation of the Treaty of 1930 between France and Monaco before preparing the opinion, but to accept a statement of intent by both parties;
- *Preferential treatment of national minorities by the kin-state: the case of the Hungarian law of 19 June 2001 on Hungarians living in neighbouring countries ("Magyars")* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): took position on amendments;
- *The Council of Europe and the Convention on the Future of Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Spindelegger, Austria, EPP): considered a report by the Political Affairs Committee and considered and approved a draft opinion;

and resuming its meeting on 26 June 2003 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Institution of Ombudsman* (Rapporteur: Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger, Switzerland, LDR): considered and adopted a draft recommendation;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: heard a statement from Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger, Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the meeting of 25 June 2003 during which the Sub-Committee considered the lists of candidatures to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Cyprus, Romania and Slovakia and agreed with the Sub-Committee's proposals;
- *Political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR): took position on amendments;
- *Disappeared persons in Belarus* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP): authorised the Rapporteur to visit Minsk in connection with the preparation of his report, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau and availability of funds;
- *Appointment of representatives*:
 - Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO), Strasbourg, 7-11 July 2003: Mr Dreyfus-Schmidt (France, SOC);
 - *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: appointed Mrs Ahlqvist (Sweden, SOC) as a titular member with Mr Pehrson (LDR) as alternate and Mr Gündüz (Turkey, SOC) as a titular member;
 - *Sub-Committee on Penal Law and Criminology*: appointed Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) as a titular member;
 - *Reform of the European Court of Human Rights*: decided to set up an an hoc sub-committee on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights with the following members: Mr Bindig (Germany, SOC), Mrs Hakl (Austria, EPP), Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) and Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC);
- *Next meetings*:
 - . Paris, Monday 1 September 2003 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
 - . Edinburgh (Scotland, United Kingdom), 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 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 Strasbourg on 25 June 2003 with Mr S. Kovalev in the Chair:

- heard a statement from representatives of the Belarus authorities;
- considered developments since its last meeting and discussed possible further action;
- instructed its Chairperson to write to the Belarus authorities asking certain agreed questions, as presented by the Chairperson;
- left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on Penal Law and Criminology (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 June 2003 with Mr McNamara and then Mr Bruce in the Chair:

- elected by acclamation Mr Bruce (United Kingdom, LDR) Chairperson;
- deferred the election of a Vice-Chairperson until its next meeting;
- considered a work programme prepared by the secretariat and agreed to consider possible future activities at the next meeting;
- decided to meet again in Paris on Monday 1 September 2003 from 9 h to 9 h 30 (on the occasion of the meeting of the plenary Committee) (Council of Europe Office).

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 June 2003 with Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger in the Chair:

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture*: considered the lists of candidatures submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Cyprus, Romania and Slovakia;

and resuming its meeting on 26 June 2003 with Mrs Wohlwend in the Chair:

- *Execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered replies received from national delegations to letters enquiring into unfulfilled execution of certain judgments, and instructed its Chairperson to write to the Chairperson of those National Delegations which had failed to reply.

Danielle Coin, Günter Schirmer, David Čupina, David Milner

cc: Secretary General and 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