

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2003/96
5 September 2003

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 1 September 2003 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR): decided to postpone adoption of the report until its meeting on 3 November 2003 and to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to withdraw this item from the draft agenda of the September 2003 part-session;
- *Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe Observer States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP): considered, amended and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- *Office of the Lord Chancellor in the constitutional system of the United Kingdom* (Doc 9798) (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered, sub-amended and adopted two amendments to the draft resolution;
- *Racist, xenophobic and intolerant discourse in politics* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): considered, amended and adopted a draft resolution;
- *Conviction of Grigory Pasko* (Rapporteur: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): considered, amended and adopted a draft resolution;
- *Candidates to the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr Kevin McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): considered a draft report, a preliminary draft recommendation and a preliminary draft resolution and decided to continue consideration of them at its next meeting;
- *To combat child abduction* (Rapporteur: Mrs Auken, Denmark, UEL): after hearing a statement by the Rapporteur, decided to ask the Bureau to delete this item from the work programme;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc*: appointed the following representatives:
 - 6th Meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission) (Venice, 16 October 2003) and meeting of the Venice Commission (Venice, 17-18 October 2003): Mr Erik Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)
 - 5th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Strasbourg, 30-31 October 2003): Mr Čilevičs (Latvia, SOC)

- *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
 - . Withdrawal of reservations and derogations made in respect of the European Convention on Human Rights: Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC)
- *Italian law on legitimate suspicion* (Rapporteur: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Germany, LDR): authorised the Rapporteur to go to Rome for the preparation of her report;
- *Petition concerning the Dutch-speakers' rights to health-care in Brussels and the surrounding Dutch-speaking municipalities* (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to go to Brussels on 10 September 2003 for the preparation of his report;
- *Sub-Committee on Penal Law and Criminology:* appointed Mr Attard Montalto (Malta, SOC) as a titular member;
- *The Principality of Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Manzella): asked its Chairperson to write to the President of the Assembly to ask that this item not be inscribed on the draft agenda and draft order of business of the September 2003 part-session;
- *Disappeared persons in Belarus* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP): took note that the Rapporteur had not received any response to his letters regarding the preparation of a visit to Minsk at the beginning of September, and invited Mrs Wohlwend to ask for explanations on this matter during the visit of the ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Bureau to Minsk on 15-16 September 2003;
- *Meeting in Edinburgh (Scotland, United Kingdom):* took note of the draft programme for the meeting to take place on 17-18 September 2003;
- *Next meetings:*
 - . 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

The Sub-Committee on Penal Law and Criminology, of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 1 September 2003 with Mr McNamara, the oldest member present,

- elected by acclamation Mrs Lopez Gonzalez (Spain, SOC) Vice-Chairperson;

then, continuing its meeting with Mrs Lopez Gonzales in the Chair, as regards

- *Harmonisation of criminal law in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Olteanu, Romania, SOC): considered the organisation of a future colloquy, approved an invitation to hold the event in Bucharest, approved the invitation of Professor Leng, Mr Constantin and a member of the Venice Commission to the colloquy, and decided to transmit these proposals to the Plenary Committee for decision;
- *Next meeting:* left it to its Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

The Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Reform of the European Court of Human Rights, of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 2 September 2003, with Mr McNamara, oldest member present, in the Chair:

- elected Mr Bindig (Germany, SOC) Chairperson;

then, continuing its meeting with Mr Bindig in the Chair:

- decided to propose to the plenary Committee that Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC), be nominated Rapporteur on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights;
- considered the proposals contained in the final report of the CDDH and asked its Rapporteur to submit some observations on these proposals at its next meeting;
- *Next meeting:*
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's September 2003 part-session

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