

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2003/126
7 October 2003

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 29 September 2003 with Mr Jurgens, 3rd Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- *External relations of the Parliamentary Assembly*: asked its Chairperson to write to the Bureau of the Assembly requesting that the Rules of Procedure be modified to include the role of the Committee;

and resuming its meeting on 30 September 2003 with Mr Jurgens in the Chair, as regards:

- *Rights of national minorities* (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): took position on the amendments to the draft recommendation;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: heard a statement by Mrs Wohlwend, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the meeting held on 30 September 2003 at which the Sub-Committee had considered the list of candidates for the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Albania and Poland and endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee;
- *Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe Observer States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation;

and resuming its meeting on 1 October 2003 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *The United States of America and observance of international-law obligations* (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur and instructed him to prepare a draft report containing a preliminary draft recommendation for one of its next meetings;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*:
 - The European Convention on Human Rights and enhancing the effectiveness of the European Court of Human Rights: Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC)
 - Video surveillance of public areas: Mr Guardans (Spain, LDR)
 - Political prisoners in Azerbaijan: Mr Bruce (United Kingdom, LDR)
 - Political prisoners in Europe: Mr Bruce (United Kingdom, LDR)
 - Human rights situation in Kosovo: Mr Lloyd (United Kingdom, SOC)

- 3rd Annual Report on the activities of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (1 January – 31 December 2002): Mr Bindig (Germany, SOC)
- Draft additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, on Biomedical Research (for opinion): Mr Gedei (Hungary, SOC)
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.*
 - . Academic session to be held on the occasion of the creation of the "World Association of Parliamentarians in Favour of the Universal Abolition of the Death Penalty" (Brussels, 10 October 2003): Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger (Switzerland, LDR)
 - . 15th Plenary Meeting of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) (Strasbourg, 13-17 October 2003): left it to the Chairperson to appoint a representative
 - . Hearing on "The status of parliamentarians; immunities and incompatibilities: towards the harmonisation of existing standards", organised by the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities (Bucharest (Romania) 27 October 2003): Mr Bruce (United Kingdom, LDR) (to be confirmed)
 - . 8th Round Table of European Ombudsmen (Oslo (Norway), 3-5 November 2003): Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger (Switzerland, LDR)
 - . 1st meeting of the Working Group on Social Rights (GT-DH-SOC) of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 16-17 October 2003): Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC)
 - . European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2003): Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC)
- Conference on "Internet Strategies and E-Justice in Europe", organised by the Ministry of Justice of Italy (Rome, 13-14 November 2003): Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP)
- *Human rights of conscripts* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered the reply of the Committee of Ministers to Written Question No 434 and asked the secretariat to prepare a table of recommendations with the replies given by the Committee of Ministers;
- *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to implement Resolution 1272 (2002) on Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan*: appointed Mr Bruce (United Kingdom, LDR) as a member, on behalf of the LDR Group;
- *Human rights in the northern part of Cyprus*: asked its Chairperson to write to the leader of the Turkish Cypriot administration to inform him of the Committee's regret regarding the refusal to open a secondary school for Greek-Cypriot pupils in the Karpa region;
- *Next meetings*:
 - . Paris, Monday 3 November 2003 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
 - . Paris, Monday 15 December 2003 at 9 h 30 (French National Assembly)
 - . Paris, Friday 9 January 2004 at 9 h 30 (French National Assembly)
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's January 2004 part-session

The Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 26 September 2003 with Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair:

- held interviews with the candidates to the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina ;
- adopted its recommendation to the Assembly concerning the candidates of this country.

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 26 September 2003 with Mr S. Kovalev in the Chair:

- was informed of the most recent exchanges of letters between the Chairman, Mr Pourgourides, the Secretary General of the Assembly and the Belarusian authorities, and the invitation received by Mr Pourgourides on 25 September to visit Belarus;
- was informed of Mrs Wohlwend's demarche in Minsk on the occasion of the parliamentary seminar on 15 September insisting on cooperation with the ad hoc Sub-Committee and the Rapporteur and thanked Mrs Wohlwend her for support;
- invited its Chairman and Mr Pourgourides in his function as Rapporteur to write to Mr Konoplev proposing a joint visit by the two of them to Minsk in early November, after the sub-committee's following meeting, in order to obtain additional information on the questions arising from the Sub-Committee's file as it presents itself to date, as summed up by the Chairman;
- in light of the exchange of letters between the Secretary General of the Assembly and the Secretary General of IPU, favoured cooperation with IPU's Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians and asked the Secretariat to invite Mrs Vinnikova, currently residing in London, to its following meeting in Paris for an exchange of views;
- decided to hold its following meeting in Paris on Monday 3 November 2003 at 17 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 30 September 2003 with Mrs Wohlwend in the Chair:

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)*: considered the lists of candidates submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Albania and Poland, decided to recommend a candidate on behalf of Poland, and to further consider the list of candidates submitted by the parliamentary delegation of Albania in the presence of a member of the Albanian delegation;
- *Execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, asked Mrs Wohlwend and Mr Olteanu to contact the Italian and French delegations respectively regarding the reasons for the absence of a reply from them to the Rapporteur's letter, and asked the Rapporteur to prepare a preliminary draft report for one of its next meetings;
- *Next meeting*:
 - . Paris, Monday 3 November 2003 from 9 h to 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)

The Sub-Committee on the Reform of the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 30 September 2003 with Mr Bindig in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views on the proposals for the reform of the European Court of Human Rights, in the presence of the President of the Court;
- left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

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