

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2003/136
10 November 2003

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 3 November 2003 with Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP) in the Chair, as regards:

- *Ratification of the protocols to and withdrawal of reservations and derogations made in respect of the European Convention on Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr Olteanu, Romania, SOC): considered a preliminary draft recommendation and a preliminary draft resolution;
- *Petition concerning the Dutch-speakers' rights to health-care in Brussels and the surrounding Dutch-speaking municipalities* (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): decided to advise the Bureau that the Assembly should deal substantively with the issue, and refer it to the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion;
- *Internet and the law* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP): held an exchange of views on the Rapporteur's proposed approach to a draft recommendation;
- *Guaranteeing the long-term effectiveness of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): in the absence of the Rapporteur, held an exchange of views on certain of the Rapporteur's informal proposed responses to the proposals made by the CDDH and the ECHR for reform of the European Court of Human Rights;
- *The Principality of Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Manzella, Italy, SOC): considered and approved its opinion, including amendments to the opinion of the Political Affairs Committee;
- *Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in Kosovo* (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): approved the Rapporteur's proposal to hold a seminar in March 2004;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc*: appointed the following representatives:
 - Symposium on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights, organised at the initiative of the authorities of Finland (Strasbourg, 17 November 2003): Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) and authorised the attendance of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee of the Reform of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2003): Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC)
 - Working Party with the task of examining the question of a possible forum for Roma and Travellers (Strasbourg, 24 November 2003): Mr Tabajdi (Hungary, SOC)

- 7th Meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission) (Venice, 11 December 2003) and meeting of the Venice Commission (Venice, 12-13 December 2003): Mr Erik Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)

heard a report from the following representative:

- 25th Conference of the European Ministers of Justice (Sofia (Bulgaria), 9-10 October 2003): the Chairperson
- *Situation of prisons in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Hunault, France, EPP): authorised a visit by the Rapporteur to Siberia (Russian Federation), on 3-5 December 2003;
- *Political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): authorised a visit by the Rapporteur to Azerbaijan on 9-10 December 2003;
- *Conviction of Grigory Pasko* (Rapporteur: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): asked its Chairperson to write to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly asking him to invite Mr Pasko to the forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee in Maastricht and to urge the Russian authorities to facilitate his travel;
- *Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe Observer States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP): instructed the Rapporteur to prepare proposals for a parliamentary conference on "effective criminal justice in a human rights framework" involving parliamentarians from the United States of America and Japan, to be held in 2004;
- *Disappeared persons in Belarus* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP): took note of the Rapporteur's visit to Minsk on 5-7 November 2003;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: appointed Mrs Arifi ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", SOC) as a member;
- *European Federation of Research and Information Centres on Sectarism (FECRIS)* (Rapporteur: Mrs Hajiyeva, Azerbaijan, EPP): asked its Chairperson to write to the Rapporteur asking her to submit a draft report at the meeting on 15 December 2003;
- *Invitation to meet in Berlin*: accepted the Chairperson's and Mr Bindig's invitation to meet in Berlin on 7-8 June 2004 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
- *Next meetings*:
 - . 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

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