

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 15 December 2003 with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *3rd Annual Report on the activities of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (1 January – 31 December 2002)* (Rapporteur: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): had an exchange of views with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Gil Robles, and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- *Political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): heard a report by the Rapporteur on his visit to Baku on 8-9 December 2003;
- *The Principality of Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Manzella, Italy, SOC): heard a statement by the Chairperson and decided to table before the Assembly one of the proposed amendments which had not been incorporated into the draft opinion adopted by the Political Affairs Committee;
- *Situation of European prisons and pre-trial detention centres* (Rapporteur: Mr Hunault, France, EPP): considered an introductory memorandum, and instructed its Rapporteur to go forward with a draft report to be presented at one of its next meetings;
- *European Federation of Research and Information Centres on Sectarism (FECRIS) (request for consultative status with the Council of Europe)* (Rapporteur: Mrs Hajiyeva, Azerbaijan, EPP): took note that Mrs Hajiyeva had resigned as rapporteur and appointed Mr Marty (Switzerland, LDR) to replace her;
- *Internet and the law* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP): adopted a draft recommendation;
- *New Bulgarian law on religion known as the Confessions Act 2002* (Rapporteur: Mr Contestabile, Italy, EPP): adopted a draft resolution;
- *Disappeared persons in Belarus* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP): heard a report by the Rapporteur on his visit to Minsk on 6-9 December 2003, considered an introductory memorandum and authorised Mr Pourgourides to transmit it to the Belarus authorities for their observations;

- *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
 - i. Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote in general elections: Mr Akçam (Turkey, EPP)
 - ii. Human Rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Ministers' responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns: Mr Bindig (Germany, SOC)
 - iii. Cross-border crime in Europe: Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP)
 - iv. Investigation of the possible monopolization of the electronic media and abuse of power in Italy (for opinion): Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC)
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:* heard reports on:
 - 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
 - Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2003): Mr McNamara
 - European Commissioner against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2003): Mr McNamara
 - 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
 - 8th Round Table of European Ombudsmen (Oslo (Norway), 3-5 November 2003): Mrs Nabholz-Haidegger
 - Conference on "Internet Strategies and E-Justice in Europe", organised by the Ministry of Justice of Italy (Rome, 13-14 November 2003): Mr Pourgourides

appointed the following representative:

- Conference on international law and the death penalty (Williamsburg, Virginia (USA), 5 April 2003): Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP) (no costs involved for the Assembly) (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau);
- *Sub-Committee on Penal Law and Criminology:* appointed Mr Rustamyan (Armenia, SOC) as a titular member with Mr Margaryan (Armenia, EDG) as alternate member;
- *Reform of the European Court of Human Rights:* decided to invite to its next meeting the Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and the Chairperson of the Drafting Group on the reinforcement of the Human Rights protection mechanism, for an exchange of views;
- *Situation of human rights in Kosovo* (Rapporteur, Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to go to Pristina in early 2004;
- *Repayment of the deposits of foreign exchange made in the offices of the Ljubljanska Banka not on the territory of Slovenia, 1977-1991* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly for an extension of the deadline for adoption of the report;
- *Persons to be invited to forthcoming committee meetings:* decided to invite the following persons to one of its forthcoming meetings:
 - the Chairperson of the CPT, to discuss its 13th Annual Report
 - the Chairperson of the Ministers' Delegates' Working Party with the task of examining the question of a possible forum for Roma and Travellers, to discuss the setting up of the forum on Roma;

- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: heard a statement by Mrs Wohlwend, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the meeting held earlier on 15 December 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, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Belgium, Azerbaijan and Slovakia, endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee's recommendations, and decided to return the list for Albania to the Bureau with a recommendation that it be referred back to the Albanian delegation;
- *Next meetings*:
 - . Paris, Friday 9 January 2004 at 9 h 30 (French National Assembly)
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's January 2004 part-session
 - . Paris, Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 March (Hearing on the situation of human rights in Kosovo) (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*)

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Paris on 15 December 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, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Belgium, Azerbaijan and Slovakia, and decided to recommend a candidate on behalf of all these countries except Albania, whose list should be returned to the Bureau with a recommendation that it be referred back to the Albanian delegation;
- *Next meeting*:
 - . 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