

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2004/05
14 January 2004

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 9 January 2004 with Mr Lintner then Mr Jurgens, 3rd Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- *Reform of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): held an exchange of views with Mr Eaton, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and Mr Boillat, Chairperson of the Drafting Group on the reinforcement of the Human Rights protection mechanism; agreed to make its comments on the proposals of the CDDH during its meeting of 15 March 2004 before the Assembly is invited by the Committee of Ministers to give its Opinion on a final text;
- *Implementation of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights by Turkey* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC) : considered a draft report and comments of the Turkish delegation, decided to ask for the withdrawal of this report from the agenda of the January 2004 part-session, and instructed its Rapporteur to prepare a revised draft report for one of its next meetings;
- *Italian law on legitimate suspicion* (Rapporteur: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Germany, LDR): heard a report by the Rapporteur on her visit to Rome (28-29 October 2003), considered an introductory memorandum, and instructed its Rapporteur to submit a draft report to one of its next meetings;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.*: heard a report on:
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) (Venice, 12-13 December 2003): Mr Jurgens;appointed the following representatives:
 - Seminar on Kin-State Involvement in Minority Protection: Lessons learned (Bucharest, 12 February 2004): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC);
 - Meeting of the Ministers' Deputies Liaison Committee with the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg, 20 January 2004): Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC);

- *Situation of Human Rights in Kosovo* (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): was informed that the Rapporteur would submit a draft programme for the colloquy to be held on 16 March 2004, after his visit to Kosovo (19-21 January 2004);
- *Rights of persons held in the custody of the United States in Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): took note of the Opinion adopted by the Venice Commission at its meeting on 12-13 December 2003 following the letter of its Chairperson dated 11 April 2003, regarding the possible need for further development of the Geneva Conventions ;
- *Next meetings:*
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's January 2004 part-session
 - . Paris, Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 March 2004 (Hearing on the human rights situation in Kosovo) (Council of Europe Office)

Danielle Coin, Günter Schirmer, David Čupina

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