

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

**Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly**

Synopsis No 2004/039

23 March 2004

**The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, meeting in Paris on 15 March 2004 with Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP) in the Chair, as regards:

- *Reform of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): approved comments on Draft Protocol No 14 to the ECHR, amending the control system of the Convention;
- *Harmonisation of criminal law in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Olteanu, Romania, SOC): agreed to apply to the Bureau for an extension of the mandate and, subject to the Bureau extending the mandate, to organise a hearing;
- *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): considered and adopted a draft resolution;
- *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 and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- *Italian law on legitimate suspicion* (Rapporteur: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Germany, LDR): considered and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- *Political Prisoners in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): authorised the Rapporteur to visit some member States in particular in the Caucasus;
- *Protection of sign languages in the member States of the Council of Europe*: invited its Chairperson to write to the President of the Assembly to ask him to address the Committee of Ministers stressing the importance of the issue and requesting a reply;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: appointed Mrs Ormonde (Ireland, LDR) as the alternate of Mr Mooney (Ireland, LDR);
- *Sub-Committee on Penal Law and Criminology*: appointed Mrs Ormonde (Ireland, LDR) as a titular member with Mr Mooney (Ireland, LDR) as her alternate;
- *Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights*: took note of the appointment of Mr Marty (Switzerland, LDR) as a titular member in place of Mr Guardans (Spain, LDR);
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*:
  - . *The circumstances surrounding the arrest and prosecution of leading Yukos executives*: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (Germany, LDR);
  - . *Human rights of conscript soldiers*: Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC);

- *Appointment of representatives:*
  - . General Assembly of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty  
(Brussels, 26 March 2004): Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP)
  - . Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 5-8 April 2004):  
Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC)

and resuming its meeting on 16 March 2004 with Mr Marty, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson in the Chair, as regards:

- *The human rights situation in Kosovo* (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Borg Olivier of UNMIK, Mr Todorovic and Mr Collaku of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo, Mr Nowicki, Ombudsperson of Kosovo, Mr Weber of the OSCE, Mr Gil-Robles, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr de Vel, Director-General of Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe and Mr Scheuer, Director of Political Advice and Cooperation of the Council of Europe;
- *Next meetings:*
  - . Paris, Wednesday 21 April 2004 (Council of Europe Office) (subject to receipt of a request for an opinion on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights from the Committee of Ministers)
  - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's April 2004 part-session
  - . Berlin, Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 June 2004

Danielle Coin, Günter Schirmer, 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