

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2004/63
6 May 2004

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 April 2004 at 8 h 30 with Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- *Situation of European prisons and pre-trial detention centres* (Rapporteur: Mr Hunault, France, EPP/CD): took note that no amendment had been tabled to its draft recommendation;
- *Situation in Kosovo*: appointed Mr Olteanu (Romania, SOC) Rapporteur for opinion for the debate under urgent procedure;
- *Cyprus*: appointed Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC) Rapporteur for opinion for the debate under urgent procedure;
- *The concept of "nation"* (Rapporteur: Mr Frunda, Romania, EPP/CD): amended and approved a questionnaire to be sent to national delegations for reply before 30 June 2004;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*:
 - i. *Video-surveillance of public areas*: Mrs Azevedo (Portugal, EPP/CD);
 - ii. *Petition concerning the Dutch-speakers' rights to health-care in Brussels and the surrounding Dutch-speaking municipalities* (for opinion) and *Petition by French-speaking citizens living in municipalities in the Brussels periphery (in the Flemish region) on access to medical care using their own language* (for opinion): Mr Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC);
 - iii. *Social rehabilitation of prisoners* (for opinion): Mr Hunault (France, EPP/CD);
- *The circumstances surrounding the arrest and prosecution of leading Yukos executives* (Rapporteur: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Germany, LDR): authorised the rapporteur to go to Moscow to meet with the persons in question, their lawyers and representatives of the Russian authorities ;

and resuming its meeting on 27 April 2004 at 14h, with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Disappeared persons in Belarus* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views with Mr Vassily Leonov, former Minister of Agriculture and author of a book on the disappeared persons in Belarus, and took position on three amendments presented to the draft resolution and one amendment to the draft recommendation;
- *The human rights situation in Kosovo* (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): confirmed its decision to request the European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") to provide an opinion on various aspects of the question of the applicability of the European Convention on Human Rights in Kosovo;
- *Cyprus* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered a report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee, considered and approved a draft opinion and approved two amendments proposed by the Rapporteur for opinion;

and resuming its meeting on 28 April 2004 at 14 h, with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Draft Protocol No 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights, amending the control system of the Convention* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): took position on nine amendments presented to the draft opinion;
- *Draft additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, on Biomedical Research* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Gedei, Hungary, SOC): considered a report tabled by the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, approved the Rapporteur's proposed oral opinion and adopted one amendment to the draft opinion;
- *Situation in Kosovo* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Olteanu, Romania, SOC): considered a report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee and approved an oral opinion and several amendments, to be tabled as sub-amendments, proposed by the Rapporteur for opinion;
- *European Federation of Research and Information Centres on Sectarism (FECRIS) (request for consultative status with the Council of Europe)* (Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, LDR): considered and adopted a draft recommendation;

and resuming its meeting on 29 April 2004 at 14 h, with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Implementation of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights by Turkey* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): adopted a draft resolution;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights* (Chairperson: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): heard a report by Mr McNamara, in the absence of the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 28 April 2004; endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning the examination of the lists of candidates for the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Armenia and Russia;
- *Euthanasia*: instructed its Chair to write to the President of the Assembly requesting that the Bureau again seize the Committee for an opinion on the report of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, following its referral back to Committee by the Assembly;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: appointed Mr Ivanov (Estonia, LDR) as a member;

- *Petition concerning human rights of linguistic minorities in the canton of Zurich* (Rapporteur: Mrs Hakl, Austria, EPP/CD): considered and adopted an opinion presented by the Rapporteur and instructed its Chair to transmit it to the President of the Assembly;
- *Sutiagin case*: instructed its Chair to write to the President of the Assembly asking that the Bureau reconsider its decision to refer this matter to the Monitoring Committee for information and instead to refer it to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report;
- *Appointment of representatives*:
 - . *5th Session of the Conference of Prosecutors General of Europe, Celle (Germany), 23-25 May 2004*: Mr Arabadjiev (Bulgaria, SOC);
 - . *Seminar on clemency issues, Yekaterinburg (Russia), 15-16 June 2004, organised in cooperation between the Council of Europe's Human Rights Directorate and Mr Pristavkin, Adviser of the President of the Russian Federation*: Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD) subject to Bureau authorisation and availability of funds;
- *Next meetings*:
 - . Berlin (Germany), Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 June 2004
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June 2004 part-session (21-25 June 2004)
 - . Paris, Monday 6 September 2004 at 9 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 29 April 2004 with Mr Pourgourides in the Chair, as regards:

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)*: considered and agreed on recommendations for candidatures to the CPT with respect to Armenia, and decided to return the list submitted by the parliamentary delegation of Russia;
- *Abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe observer States* (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on preparations for a seminar to be held in the United States of America;
- *Next meetings*:
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June 2004 part-session (21-25 June 2004)
 - . Barcelona (Spain), 2-3 July 2004 (on the occasion of the 1st Round Table of European Regional Ombudsmen) (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau*)

Danielle Coin, Günter Schirmer, Valérie Clamer, 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