

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2004/111
14 October 2004

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 5 October 2004 at 14 h with Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), Third Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Challenge of terrorism in the member states of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for oral opinion: Mr Lintner, Germany, EPP/CD): considered a report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee, approved elements for the Committee's oral opinion and adopted amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation;

and resuming its meeting on 6 October 2004 at 14 h 00, with Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- *Challenge of terrorism in the member states of the Council of Europe* (Rapporteur for oral opinion: Mr Lintner, Germany, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views with Mr Sergey Fridinsky, Deputy Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation;
- *Follow-up to Resolution 1371 (2004) and to Recommendation 1657 (2004) on disappeared persons in Belarus*: heard a statement from the Chairperson informing the Committee that the Sports Minister of Belarus would not be attending the forthcoming Council of Europe Conference in Budapest and that the Hungarian authorities would ensure that he did not attend, that the human rights activists arrested whilst distributing copies of Resolution 1371 had been released but were still being prosecuted, and that the President of the Parliamentary Assembly had written to the Venice Commission requesting an opinion on the forthcoming referendum in Belarus;
- *Lawfulness of detentions by the United States in Guantánamo Bay* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): considered an outline programme for a hearing to be held on 17 December 2004;
- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights*: heard a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 5 October 2004 and endorsed the Sub-Committee's recommendations concerning the candidates with respect to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Iceland and Italy;

- *Follow-up to Resolution 1359 (2004) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): considered a revised information note presented by the Rapporteur and decided to resume discussion of the item at its next meeting;
- *The circumstances surrounding the arrest and prosecution of leading Yukos executives*: (Rapporteur: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Germany, LDR): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her visit to Moscow on 28-30 September 2004;

and resuming its meeting on 7 October 2004 at 8 h 30, with Mr Lintner in the Chair, as regards:

- *Appointment of representatives*:
 - o High Level Seminar on Reform of the European Human Rights System, organised by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Oslo, 18 October 2004): appointed Mr Hunault (France, EPP/CD);
 - o Round Table on "The civil Code: What future for Europe" (Strasbourg, 22 October 2004) : appointed Mr Hunault (France, EPP/CD);
 - o Steering Committee on the Mass Media (CDMM) (Strasbourg, 2-5 November 2004): appointed Mr Manzella (Italy, SOC);
 - o Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 23-26 November 2004): appointed Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC);
 - o European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) Strasbourg, 14-17 December 2004): appointed Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC);
- *The human rights situation in Kosovo* (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): considered an outline report presented by the Rapporteur and decided to change the title of the report to "the protection of human rights in Kosovo";
- *Human rights situation in the Chechen Republic* (Rapporteur: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC): considered and took position on 26 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and 5 amendments to the draft recommendation and approved one oral sub-amendment;
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc.:* heard a report by Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD) on the International Legal Seminar on "Clemency, execution of judgments, crime related to use and sale of drugs and juvenile justice" (Ekaterinburg, Russia, 14-15 June 2004);
- *Meeting of the Bureau (8 October 2004)*: appointed Mr Bindig (Germany, SOC) to represent the Committee in the absence of its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons;
- *The case of Igor Sutiagin* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): authorised the Rapporteur to make a fact-finding visit to Russia in connection with preparation of his report;
- *Avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities between international mechanisms for the protection of human rights in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to go to Brussels, Vienna and possibly Warsaw in connection with preparation of his report;
- *Assistance to ill persons at end of life*: appointed Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) as Rapporteur for opinion;

- *Next meetings:*

- . Paris, Thursday 18 November 2004 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe office)
- . Paris, Thursday 16 December 2004 at 9 h 30 (ordinary meeting) (Council of Europe Office)
- . Paris, Friday 17 December 2004, 9 h 30 – 13 h 00 (Hearing on the lawfulness of detentions by the United States in Guantánamo Bay) (French National Assembly)
- . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's January 2005 part-session (24-28 January 2005).

The *ad hoc* Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 4 October 2004 with Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair:

- held interviews with the candidates to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Slovakia;
- adopted its recommendation to the Assembly concerning the candidates of this country.

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 5 October 2004 with Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) 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 Iceland and Italy, and instructed its secretariat to prepare a memorandum on possible improvements in the procedure of examination of candidatures to the CPT;
- *Next meeting:*
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's January 2005 part-session (24-28 January 2005).

Jeroen Schokkenbroek, 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