



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

### Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2005/ 38  
11 April 2005

**The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, meeting on 6 April 2005 in Paris with Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, LDR), in the Chair, as regards:

- **Appointment of Rapporteurs:**
  - o *The situation of the inhabitants of the Sovereign British Areas of Akrotiri and Dheklia:* Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC);
  - o *Improving CPT selection procedures:* Mr Mehdi Eker (Turkey, EPP/CD);
  - o *Follow-up to Resolution 1359 (2004) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan:* Mr Malcolm Bruce (United Kingdom, LDR);
- **Assistance to patients at end of life** (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): approved an opinion containing amendments to the draft resolution in draft report tabled by the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee ;
- **Lawfulness of detentions by United States in Guantánamo Bay** (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Follow-up to Resolution 1359 (2004) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan** (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Baku on 15-16 March 2005, held an exchange of views on the recent presidential pardon of certain political prisoners, decided to continue work on the issue and expressed its continuing concerns and dissatisfaction with the overall situation and its expectation of the release of all remaining political prisoners in the immediate future;
- **Launching new inquiry into murder of Ukrainian journalist Georgiy Gongadze** (Rapporteur: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Germany, LDR): in the Rapporteur's absence, took note of the information contained in press releases concerning her visit to Kyiv on 30 March - 1 April 2005 and the recent admissibility decision of the European Human Rights Court brought by Mr Gongadze's wife;
- **Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote in general elections** (Rapporteur: Mr Eker, Turkey, EPP/CD): took note of the opinion of the Venice Commission and instructed the Rapporteur to take it into account in preparing his draft report;

- **Concept of nation** (Rapporteur: Mr Frunda, Romania, EPP/CD): considered a revised introductory memorandum presented by the Rapporteur and instructed him to present a draft report taking into account comments made by Committee members;
- **Proposal to set up a sub-committee on rights of minorities**: approved draft terms of reference of the Sub-Committee and invited those members wishing to take part in its work to submit their names to the secretariat by 20 April 2005;
- **Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights** (Chairperson: Mrs Bemelmans-Vidéc, Netherlands, EPP/CD): agreed to increase the number of members of the Sub-Committee from 14 to 16 to ensure that all political groups continue to be represented on the Sub-Committee;
- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee**:
  - o *Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN)* (Strasbourg, 10-12 May 2005): Mr Valery Grebennikov (Russia, EDG);
- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** decided that all Committee representatives at such events must present short written reports of their participation;
- **Other business**:
  - o *Election of a Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe*: took note of Minister's Deputies decision of 30 March 2005, and stressed the need for candidates to be interviewed in September 2005 in view of the election scheduled during the October 2005 session;
  - o *Ombudsperson for Kosovo*: took note of the information received from the Ombudsperson on plans by UNMIK to "deinternationalise" the institution, noted simultaneous developments towards establishment of an Advisory Panel by UNMIK, recalled the position taken on these issues by the Assembly in its Resolution 1417 (2005), and decided to propose to the President of the Assembly that he write to the Ombudsperson informing him of the attention being given to the matter by the Committee and of its intention to keep this matter under review;
  - o *Meeting in Cyprus*: approved draft programme, including that of a hearing on enforced disappearances;
- **Next meetings**:
  - . Strasbourg, during Assembly's 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session (25-29 April 2005)
  - . Limassol (Cyprus), 23 - 24 May 2005
  - . Strasbourg, during Assembly's 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session (20-24 June 2005)

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Valérie Clamer, David Milner

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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