

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

**Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly**

Synopsis No 2005/50  
2 May 2005

**The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, meeting in Strasbourg

- on 26 April 2005 at 8.30 am with Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, LDR) in the Chair, as regards:
  - *Assistance to patients at end of life*: took note of the resignation of its Rapporteur for opinion, Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC), and instructed its Chairperson to present the opinion and the amendments of the Committee to the plenary Assembly;
  - *Appointment of representatives of the Committee*:
    - *CEPEJ Conference on "Evaluating European judicial systems"* (The Hague, 2-3 May 2005): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)
    - *IPU Seminar for Chairpersons of parliamentary human rights bodies* (Geneva, 25-27 May 2005): Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, LDR);
  - *Lawfulness of detentions by the United States in Guantánamo Bay* (Rapporteur: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): took position on one amendment tabled to its draft resolution;
  - *Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights* (Chairperson: Mrs Bemelmans-Videc, Netherlands, EPP/CD): heard a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on its meeting in Strasbourg of 25 April 2005, and took note that the Sub-Committee had adopted a report following hearings with the candidates presented by Latvia, and that this report had been transmitted to the President of the Assembly;
  - *Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities*: constituted the Sub-Committee as follows:

Member

Mrs AHLQVIST Birgitta	Sweden	
Mr BINDIG Rudolf	Germany	
Mr BUDIN Milos	Italy	
Mr CEBECİ Erol Aslan	Turkey	
Mr CILEVIČS Boriss	Latvia	
Mrs CIRCENE Ingrīda	Latvia	
Mr FRUNDA György	Romania	
Mr GEDEI József	Hungary	
Mr GREBENNIKOV Valery	Russia	
Mr GORIS Stef	Belgium	(alternate: Mr VAN DEN BRANDE Luc)

Mr GROSS Andreas	Switzerland
Mrs HAJIYEVA Gultakin	Azerbaijan (alternate: Mr HUSEYNOV Rafael)
Mr IVANOV Sergei	Estonia
Mr JOVAŠEVIĆ Ljubiša	Serbia and Montenegro
Mr JURGENS Erik	Netherlands
M. MONFILS Philippe	Belgium
Mr SHARANDIN Yuri	Russia
Mr SEVERIN Adrien	Romania
Mr VAREIKIS Egidijus	Lithuania
Mr HOLOVATY Serhiy, <i>ex officio</i>	Ukraine

- *Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote in general elections* (Rapporteur: Mr Eker, Turkey, EPP/CD): approved a report, unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation and instructed its Rapporteur to present them at the June 2005 part-session of the Assembly;
- *Launching a new inquiry into the murder of the Ukrainian journalist Georgiy Gongadze* (Rapporteur: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Germany, LDR): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Kyiv from 30 March to 1 April 2005, considered an introductory memorandum and authorised her to undertake a further fact-finding visit to Ukraine and to meet witnesses outside Ukraine, in Council of Europe member States, if necessary;
- *Enforced disappearances* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): considered a draft programme for the hearing to be held in Limassol (Cyprus) on 24 May 2005 and decided that any other persons, not members of the Committee, wishing to attend must contact the secretariat by 18 May 2005 at the latest;
- *Ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Council of Europe member States* (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and decided to reissue the questionnaire to the six countries that had failed to reply;
- *Sub-Committee on Penal law and Criminology*: decided to change the name of the Sub-Committee to "Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism";
- *Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc.*: considered the following written reports:
  - o 7<sup>th</sup> European Ministerial Conference on the mass media (Kiev (Ukraine), 9-11 March 2005): Mr Manzella (Italy, SOC)
  - o Council for Democratic Elections and the European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") (Venice, 11-13 March 2005): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)
  - o European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 15 March 2005): Mr Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC)
  - o International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (organised by ECRI) (Paris, 21 March 2005): Mr Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC)
  - o 9<sup>th</sup> Round Table of European Ombudspersons (Copenhagen, 31 March – 1 April 2005): Mrs Hajiyeva (Azerbaijan, EPP/CD)
  - o 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers of Justice (Helsinki, 7-8 April 2005): Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, LDR)

- on 28 April 2005 at 8.30 am with Mr Holovaty in the Chair, as regards:
  - *Human rights of members of the armed forces* (Rapporteur: Mr Arabadjiev, Bulgaria, SOC): held a hearing with the participation of :
    - . Mr Alvaro Gil-Robles, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
    - . Mr Ian Gorvin, Human Rights Watch
    - . Mr Bauke Snoep, President of the European Organisation of Military Associations (Euromil)
    - . Mrs Liz Scurfield, Quaker Council for European Affairs
    - . Mrs Natalia Zhukova, Union of the Committees of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia;
  - *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:*
    - endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee, which had met in Strasbourg on 27 April 2005, concerning the lists of candidates for the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Greece, Hungary and Serbia and Montenegro and took note that consideration of the list presented by the delegation of the Russian Federation had been deferred;
    - appointed Mr Ertsborn (Sweden, LDR) as alternate of Mrs Ahlqvist;
  - *Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities:* appointed Mr Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD) and Mr Rustamyan (Armenia, SOC) as members and Mr Ertsborn (Sweden, LDR) as alternate of Mrs Ahlqvist;
  - *Concept of nation* (Rapporteur: Mr Frunda, Romania, EPP/CD) instructed its Chairperson to write to the President of the Assembly requesting that the Bureau extend the validity of the reference for six months;
  - *European prisons charter* (Rapporteur: Mr Hunault, France, EDG): took note of a letter sent to the Chairperson by Mr Hunault and decided to resume consideration of the issue at a forthcoming meeting, in the presence of the Rapporteur;
  - *Avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities between international mechanisms for the protection of human rights in Europe:* decided to resume consideration of this issue on the basis of a new motion;
  - *Cyprus meeting* (23-24 May 2005): took note of the draft programme and arrangements made for the Committee's meeting;
  - *Next meetings:*
    - . Limassol (Cyprus), Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 May 2005
    - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session (20-24 June 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 25 April 2005 with Mrs Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- held interviews with the candidates to the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of Latvia;
- 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 27 April 2005 at 2 pm with Mr Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC), Vice-Chairperson, 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 Greece, Hungary and Serbia and Montenegro, and decided to invite the Chairman of the Russian parliamentary delegation to a future meeting to provide further information on the list of candidates with respect to the Russian Federation;
- *Next meeting*: left it to the Chairperson to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 27 April 2005 at 2.30 pm with first Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC) then Mr Čilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- *Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee*: elected Mr Čilevičs (Latvia, SOC) Chairperson by acclamation, and Mr Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD) Vice-Chairperson;
- *Activities of the Council of Europe in the field of minorities*: heard a presentation by Mr Hanno Hartig, Head of the Department for Minorities, Media and Equality, Directorate General of Human Rights;
- *Next meeting*: left it to the Chairperson to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

Andrew Drzemczewski, 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