

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2005/ 61
31 May 2005

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Limassol (Cyprus) on 23 May 2005 with Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, LDR), in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views with the following prominent Cypriot figures:
 - H.E. Mr Demetris Christofias, President of the House of Representatives
 - Mr Kypros Chrysostomides, Government Spokesman
 - Mr Christos Pourgourides, Member of the Parliamentary Delegation of Cyprus to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
 - Mr Ionas Nicolaou, Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Legal Affairs
 - Mr Sophocles Fittis, Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Human Rights
- held an exchange of views with members of the House Standing Committees on Legal Affairs and on Human Rights;

and, as regards:

- *Follow-up to Resolution 1359 (2004) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): approved a report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, with a view to their presentation to the Assembly at the June 2005 part-session;
- *Enforced disappearances* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum and instructed its Rapporteur to present a draft report at a forthcoming meeting;
- *Concept of nation* (Rapporteur: Mr Frunda, Romania, EPP/CD): considered a draft report and instructed the Rapporteur to present a revised preliminary draft recommendation at a forthcoming meeting, taking into account the oral and written comments of members;
- *Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights by the Parliamentary Assembly*: considered a memorandum prepared by the secretariat, took note of the election procedure proposed by the Bureau of the Assembly, and decided that its Sub-Committee on Human Rights would interview the candidates at its meeting on 15 September 2005, in view of the election foreseen during the Assembly's 4th part-session;

- *Respect for human rights in the fight against terrorism* (Rapporteur: Mr Grebennikov, Russian Federation, EDG): considered an outline report, invited the Rapporteur to focus in his report on the questions raised in the original motion, taking into account the motion for a recommendation on anti-terrorism legislation in the United Kingdom, in conformity with the decision of the Assembly of 29 April 2005; and as regards the other issues raised in the outline report, the Committee encouraged the Rapporteur to present a new motion;
- *Fair trial issues in criminal cases concerning espionage or divulging state secrets* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the preparation of his fact-finding visit to Russia and noted with satisfaction the commitment of the Russian members to support his initiative and to give him their assistance;
- *Situation in the Middle East* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur for opinion and instructed him to present a draft opinion at its next meeting, considering that the report of the Political Affairs Committee would be adopted on 31 May 2005;
- *Appointment of representatives of the Committee:*
 - o Seminar on "Protecting human rights while fighting terrorism", Strasbourg, 13-14 June 2005: Mr Grebennikov (Russian Federation, EDG)
 - o Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Strasbourg, 14-17 June 2005: Mr Grebennikov (Russian Federation, EDG)
 - o Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC), Strasbourg, 21-24 June 2005: Mr Jaskiernia (Poland, SOC)
 - o Seminar on "Clemency, execution of sentences and juvenile justice", Ulan Ude, Russian Federation, 28-30 June 2005: Mrs Renate Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD) (without expenses for the Assembly);
- *Appointment of Rapporteurs:*
 - o The rights of national minorities in Latvia: Mr Severin (Romania, SOC)
 - o Video surveillance of public areas: Mr Sharandin (Russian Federation, EDG);

and resuming its meeting on 24 May 2005 with Mr Holovaty, and then Mr Jaskiernia, 1st Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards,

- *Sub-Committee on Human Rights:* endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee, which had met in Limassol (Cyprus) on 23 May 2005, concerning the lists of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Luxembourg and Switzerland;
- *Hearing on enforced disappearances* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): heard the testimonies of:
 - . Mr Marios Kouloumas, relative of a missing person from the Greek Cypriot Community;
 - . Mr Koni Kanol, relative of a missing person from the Turkish Cypriot Community;
 - . Mrs Zaynap Dzambekova, relative of a missing person from the Chechen Republic, Russian Federation
 and the interventions of:
 - . Professor Manfred Nowak, Vienna, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and UN Expert on Enforced Disappearances;
 - . Mr Alexander Cherkassov, Moscow, Representative of the NGO Human Rights Center "Memorial";
- *Next meetings:*
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session (20-24 June 2005)
 - . Paris, Friday 16 September 2005

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Limassol (Cyprus) on 23 May 2005 with Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/DC), in the Chair, as regards:

- *European Committee for the prevention of torture (CPT)*: considered and approved recommendations for candidates to the CPT in respect of Luxembourg and Switzerland;
- *Alleged disappearance of Murad Muradov («Save the Generation») in the Chechen Republic*: took note of the IHF appeal, decided to reconsider this case at its next meeting, and instructed its Chairperson to collect additional information in the meantime;
- *Next meeting*:
. Paris, Thursday 15 September 2005 (afternoon) (Council of Europe Office).

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Valérie Clamer

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