

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No 2005/78
28 June 2005

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

- on 20 June 2005 at 14 h with Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, LDR) in the Chair, as regards:
 - *Situation in the Middle East* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr McNamara, United Kingdom, SOC): considered the report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee, approved an opinion and nine amendments to the draft resolution, and instructed its Rapporteur to present them in the plenary;
 - *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed the following rapporteurs:
 - *Improving CPT selection procedures*: Mr Cebeci (Turkey, EPP/CD)
 - *Constitutional reform process in Armenia* (for opinion): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)
 - *Prosecution of offences falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*: Mr Lloyd (United Kingdom, SOC);
 - *New references for information*: took note of the motion for a recommendation on *the Holy See and respect for the basic values of the Council of Europe*, and the motion for a resolution on *the UK postal voting system*, referred to it for information;
 - *Fair trial issues in criminal cases concerning espionage or divulging state secrets* (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum, and took note that the Rapporteur would soon carry out the information visit to Russia which had already been authorised;
- on 21 June 2005 at 8 h 30 with Mr Holovaty in the Chair, as regards:
 - *Exchange of views with the President of the Assembly, Mr René van der Linden*: held an exchange of views, and expressed interest in the President's proposal to establish and maintain closer contacts with European Parliament committees dealing with issues of common interest, in particular in the plan to set up a European Union Fundamental Rights Agency;
 - *Follow-up to the Third Summit*: held an exchange of views and, in conformity with the Bureau's decision of 6 June 2005, decided to appoint a rapporteur at its next meeting;

- *Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur and a working document prepared by the Secretariat, declassified these two documents, proposed that the President of the Assembly send letters to the Chairpersons of the 13 national delegations concerned asking for their cooperation in implementing the Court judgments mentioned in the document, and decided to invite the Chairpersons of the delegations of the three countries presenting serious problems to report orally on progress made at a forthcoming meeting;
- *Ratification of the Framework Convention for the protection of national minorities by the Council of Europe member states* (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum and reminded the delegations of Georgia, Iceland and Turkey, which had not yet replied to the questionnaire, that their replies should be submitted by 4 July, the deadline fixed by the Committee;
- on 22 June 2005 at 14 h with Mr Holovaty in the Chair, as regards:
 - *Follow-up to Resolution 1359 (2004) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan* (Rapporteur: Mr Bruce, United Kingdom, LDR): took position on the 27 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and the 8 amendments to the draft recommendation;
 - *Constitutional reform process in Armenia* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered the report tabled by the Monitoring Committee, approved two amendments to the draft resolution, and instructed its Rapporteur to present them to the plenary Assembly;
 - *Composition of sub-committees*: appointed Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, SOC) and Mr Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC) members of the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism;
- on 23 June 2005 at 14 h with first Mr Holovaty, then Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), second Vice-Chairperson in the Chair, as regards:
 - *Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote* (Rapporteur: Mr Eker, Turkey, EPP/CD): took position on the 19 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and on one amendment to the draft recommendation, and, in the absence of the Rapporteur, asked its Chairperson to present the report to the plenary Assembly;
 - *Sub-Committee on Human Rights* (Chairperson: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): heard a report on the meeting of 21 June 2005, and approved the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning the lists of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) presented by the parliamentary delegations of the Netherlands, Lithuania, Slovenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Portugal and Greece;
 - *European prison charter* (Rapporteur: Mr Hunault, France, EDG): in the absence of the Rapporteur, authorised him to make a fact-finding visit to the Czech Republic at a date to be decided and subject to available budgetary funds, and decided to consider the other requests for fact-finding visits at a future meeting, on the basis of additional explanations to be given by the Rapporteur;
 - *Appointment of representatives of the Committee*:
 - Seminar to mark the entry into force of Protocol No 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights (Strasbourg, 11 October 2005): Mr Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC);
 - *Composition of Sub-Committees*: appointed Mr Lloyd (United Kingdom, SOC) titular member of the Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities and Mr Cebeci (Turkey, EPP/CD) alternate member of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights;
 - *Next meetings*:
 - . Paris, Friday 16 September 2005 at 9 h 30 (French National Assembly)
 - . Strasbourg, during the Assembly 4th part-session (3-7 October 2005).

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 21 June 2005 at 14 h with Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, PPE/DC) 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 the Netherlands, Lithuania, Slovenia, Austria, Bulgaria and Portugal, and decided, in line with Resolution 1248 (2001), to recommend that the Bureau ask the parliamentary delegation of Greece to submit a new list, and took note that the representative of the Russian parliamentary delegation had withdrawn the list of candidates to the CPT on behalf of the Russian Federation;
- *Alleged disappearance of Mr Murad Muradov*: took note that the Chairperson had not yet received the information requested from the Russian parliamentary delegation and decided to come back to this matter at a later date;
- *Next meetings*:
 - . Paris, Thursday 15 September 2005 at 15 h (Council of Europe Office)
 - . Geneva, Thursday 13 October 2005 (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau*).

The Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting on 23 June 2005, with Mr McNamara (United Kingdom, SOC), oldest member present, then Mr Bartumeu Cassany in the Chair, as regards:

- *Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee*: elected by acclamation Mr Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC) Chairperson;
- *Activities of the Council of Europe concerning the fight against terrorism*: heard some introductory remarks by Mrs Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and presentations by Mr Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Programmes Department, Directorate General of Human Rights, and by Mr Rafael Benitez, Head of the Counter-Terrorism Task Force, Directorate General of Legal Affairs;
- *Next meeting*: left it to its 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 on 23 June 2005, with Mr Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- *European Charter for regional or minority languages*: heard a presentation by Mr Philip Blair, Director, Directorate of Co-operation for Local and Regional Democracy;
- *Work programme of the Sub-Committee*: took note of the memorandum submitted by its Chairperson and decided to come back to this matter at its next meeting;
- *Next meeting*: left it to its 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