

SECRETARIAT

11 October 2005
Synopsis No 2005/116

To the Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 3 and 6 October 2005

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

- **on 3 October 2005** at 2 pm with Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Enforced disappearances** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): took position on the three amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Member states' duty to cooperate with the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum and decided to hold a hearing in early 2006;
 - **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 his visit to Moscow on 21-23 September 2005 and approved his proposal to consult an expert concerning the nature of scientific data published by Mr Danilov;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs** appointed Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD) rapporteur on a *Legal instrument for the recognition, protection and promotion of sign languages and the rights of their users*;
 - **Appointment of representatives of the Committee**: appointed the following representatives:
 - Second International Conference on the Legislative Aspects of the Fight Against Terrorism (Moscow, 18-19 October 2005): Mr Varvitsiotis (Greece, EPP/CD)
 - Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 22-25 November 2005): Mrs Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD);
- **on 6 October 2005** at 8.30 am with Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Concept of nation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Frunda, Romania, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and a draft recommendation, and decided to resume consideration of the draft text for its final adoption at its next meeting;
 - **Serious human rights violations in Libya – inhuman treatment of Bulgarian medical staff** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC*): took position on the four amendments tabled to the draft recommendation;

- **Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (Chairperson: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD):
 - heard a report by Mr Cilevics on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 4 October 2005,
 - endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning the lists of candidates for the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Norway, and the United Kingdom,
 - approved a public statement on the case of Platon Lebedev, prepared by the Sub-Committee;

- **Position of the Parliamentary Assembly as regards the Council of Europe member and observer states which have not abolished the death penalty** (Rapporteur: Mrs Wohlwend, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD): considered an information memorandum;

- **Ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe member states** (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevics, Latvia, SOC): took note of the programme for the hearing to take place in Paris on 22 November 2005;

- **Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism** (Chairperson: Mr Bartumeu Cassany, Andorra, SOC): took note that the Sub-Committee would hold hearings on the European Prisons Charter and on the activity of international organisations concerning the fight against terrorism in Paris on 22 November 2005;

- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** took note of a written report by Mr Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC) on the Conference on combating economic crime (Lisbon, 28-29 September 2005);

- **Appointment of rapporteurs** appointed the following rapporteurs:
 - *The implementation of legal and other tools useful for fighting against violence and other forms of child exploitation and abuse:* Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD)
 - *Investigation of crimes allegedly committed by high officials during the Kuchma rule in Ukraine:* Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (Germany, ALDE), on the understanding that the report will include the report on the Gongadze case;

- **The rights of national minorities in Latvia** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to undertake fact-finding visits to Latvia and to the Russian Federation;

- **Human rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Ministers' responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns** (Rapporteur: Mr Rudolf Bindig, Germany, SOC): asked its Chairperson to write to the Bureau to request a prolongation of the reference, which is due to expire on 25 November 2005, until 31 January 2006;

- **Next meetings:**
 - Paris, Monday 7 November 2005 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
 - Paris, Tuesday 22 November 2005 (Council of Europe Office)
 - 9 h - 12 h 30: Hearing on the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe member states
 - 14 h: Hearings on the European Prisons Charter and on the activity of international organisations concerning the fight against terrorism, organised by the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism
 - Paris, Tuesday 13 December 2005 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office).

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 4 October 2005 at 2 pm 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 Denmark, Georgia, Greece and the United Kingdom;
 - with respect to Norway, postponed consideration of the list until its next meeting;
- ***Case of Platon Lebedev (imprisoned former Yukos executive):***
 - held an exchange of views with Ms Karinna Moskalenko, member of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) for the Russian Federation, Director of the Centre for International Legal Protection in Moscow,
 - took note of the appeal to the Sub-Committee on Human Rights by the All-Russia Movement for Human Rights on the health situation of Mr Platon Lebedev, and
 - approved a draft public statement, to be submitted for approval to the plenary Committee;
- ***Next meeting:***
 - Geneva (Switzerland), Thursday 13 October 2005 at 9 h 30

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Valérie Clamer, Dmytro Kotliar

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