

19 December 2005  
Synopsis No 2005/137

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 13 December 2005

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 13 December 2005 with first Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE), Chairperson, and then Mr Cilevics (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards

- **Human rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Ministers' responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bindig, Germany, SOC*): considered, amended and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation with a view to their presentation at the Assembly's January 2006 part-session;
- **Alleged secret detention centres in Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, ALDE*)
  - held an exchange of views with Mrs Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Alvaro Gil-Robles, Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Cem Özdemir, member of the European Parliament (Germany, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance), and Mr Emmanuel Crabit, Principal Administrator in the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission,
  - appointed Mr Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) Rapporteur,
  - heard a statement by the Rapporteur on developments on this issue since the last meeting,
  - approved a public statement by the Rapporteur,
  - authorised the Rapporteur to go to the seats of the European institutions and to make fact-finding visits to certain Council of Europe member states if he deemed it necessary,
  - decided to ask the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) to prepare a legal opinion assessing the legality of secret detention in the light of Council of Europe member states' international obligations, in particular the legality of secret detention in the light of Council of Europe member States' international law obligations, in particular the European Convention on Human Rights and the Convention for the Prevention of Torture, and expressed the wish that this opinion be submitted as soon as possible;
  - asked its Chairperson to submit to the Bureau a request for an urgent procedure debate on «the alleged secret detention in Council of Europe member states» during the Assembly's January 2006 part-session;
- **Draft protocol on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to state succession** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bartumeu Cassany, Andorra, SOC*): considered and adopted a draft opinion with a view to its presentation at the Assembly's January 2006 part-session;

- **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC*): considered a supplementary introductory memorandum submitted by the Rapporteur and decided to make it public;
- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc:** took note of written reports by 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)
  - Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) (Strasbourg, 26-28 October 2005): Mr Cilevics (Latvia, SOC)
  - Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 22-25 November 2005): Mrs Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD)
  - Steering Committee on the media and new communication services (CDMC) (Strasbourg, 29 November – 2 December 2005): Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, SOC);
- **Next meetings:**
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1<sup>st</sup> part-session of 2006 (23-27 January).

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Valérie Clamer, Isild Heurtin

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