



24 May 2006  
Synopsis No 2006/55

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Budapest (Hungary) on 17 and 18 May 2006

**The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, meeting in Budapest on 18 May 2006 with Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Prosecution of offences falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC*): held an exchange of views with:
  - Mr Slobodan Kovac, Minister of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Mrs Ana Lovrin, Minister of Justice of Croatia
  - Mr Branislav Bjelica, Vice-Minister of Justice of Serbia
  - Mr David Tolbert, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
  - Mrs Mary Wykcoff, Head of the Rule of Law Unit of the OSCE Mission to Croatia
  - Mrs Sabine Bauer, Legal Officer in the Legal Services Unit of the Office of the Secretary General of the OSCE;
  
- ***Ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe member states*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Čilevičs, Latvia, SOC*):
  - approved and declassified the minutes of the hearing held in Paris on 22 November 2005 on the *Ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe member states*
  - considered a draft report and authorised the Rapporteur to update the explanatory memorandum in order to take into account the exchange of views held during the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities on 17 May, on the *non-discrimination provisions in the European Union law and Council of Europe mechanisms: how can minorities be better protected in Europe?*
  - considered, amended and unanimously adopted a draft recommendation with a view to its presentation at the June 2006 part-session;
  
- ***The United States of America and international law*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and decided to appoint an expert to assist with the drafting of a study on this issue;
  
- ***The rights of national minorities in Latvia*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;

- **Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities** (Chairperson: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): heard a report on the meetings held in The Hague on 28 April 2006 and in Budapest on 17 May 2006 and took note that the minutes of the hearing held in The Hague on *the use of minority languages in the broadcast media* had been approved and declassified;
- **The OSCE guidelines on the use of minority languages in the broadcast media and the Council of Europe standards: need to enhance cooperation and synergy** (Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:** appointed the following representatives:
  - i. Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC) (Strasbourg, 30 May – 2 June 2006): Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, SOC)
  - ii. Roundtable on "Non-citizens and Minority Rights" (Geneva, 16 June 2006): Mr Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC);
- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** considered a written report by Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, SOC) who represented the Committee at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the revised Social Charter (Strasbourg, 3 May 2006);
- **Next meetings:**

**Plenary Committee:**

  - Paris, Wednesday 7 June 2006 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session (26-30 June 2006)
  - Paris, Thursday 7 September 2006 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
  - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> part-session (2-6 October 2006)

**Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:**

  - Strasbourg, Tuesday 6 June 2006 at 3 pm.

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**The Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Budapest on 17 May 2006 at 14 h 00, with Mr Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The use of minority languages in the broadcast media:** approved and declassified the minutes of the hearing held in The Hague (Netherlands) on 28 April 2006;
- **The non-discrimination provisions in the European Union law and Council of Europe mechanisms: how can minorities be better protected in Europe?:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:
  - Mrs Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson of the European Union's Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), member of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
  - Mr Jeno Kaltenbach, member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
  - Mr Alvaro Oliveira, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Action against Discrimination Unit, European Commission
  - Mr Gábor Halmai, member of the EU network of independent experts on fundamental rights;

- ***The situation of national minorities in the Voivodina Province and of the Romanian ethnic minority in Serbia*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Herrmann, Germany, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of:
  - Mrs Anastasia Crickley, member of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
  - Mr Gobor Zoltan, Deputy to the Ombudsman of the Autonomous Province of Voivodina
  - Mrs Orsolya Deli Vidacs, Senior Expert Associate in National Minorities' Rights Protection, Office of the Ombudsman of the Autonomous Province of Voivodina
  - Mr Petar Ladjevic, Secretary of the Council of the Republic of Serbia for National Minorities
  - Mr László Józsa, President of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority
  - Mr Josip Pekanović, President of the National Council of the Croatian National Minority
  - Mrs Ana Tomanova-Makanova, President of the National Council of the Slovakian National Minority
  - Mr Stefano Valenti, Special Representative of the Secretary General to Serbia and Montenegro
- ***Next meeting:*** left it to the Chairperson to fix the date and time of the next meeting.

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  
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