

3 July 2006
Synopsis No 2006/70

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

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 27-29 June 2006

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

- on 27 June 2006 at 8 h 30, with Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - (item discussed with Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), 1st Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair)
 - ***Alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, ALDE*): took position on sixteen amendments tabled to the draft resolution and on two amendments tabled to the draft recommendation;
 - ***The 2003 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 a preliminary draft report;
 - ***Video surveillance of public areas*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Sharandin, Russian Federation, EDG*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and decided to invite a Senator from Belgium to present the state of work on this issue in the Belgian Parliament.

- on 28 June 2006 at 14 h 00, with Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Election of the 3rd Vice-Chairperson of the Committee***: elected Mr Frunda (Romania, EPP/CD) 3rd Vice-Chairperson by acclamation (as from 1 July 2006);
 - ***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*): took position on the two amendments tabled to the draft recommendation;
 - ***Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Ukraine on 19-20 June 2006;

- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:**
 - Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau for the joint Conference PACE / UEFA (Strasbourg, 29 September 2006): Mr Ivanji (Serbia, EPP/CD) (subject to the Bureau decision concerning its composition)
 - 27th Conference of the European Ministers of Justice (Yerevan, 12-13 October 2006): Mr Rustamyan (Armenia, SOC)
 - 7th Session of the Conference of Prosecutors General of Europe (Moscow, 5-6 July 2006): Mr Grebennikov (Russian Federation, EPP/CD);
 - **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** considered written reports on the following meetings:
 - Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC) (Strasbourg, 30 May – 2 June 2006): Mr Tkáč (Slovakia, SOC)
 - Roundtable on “Non-Citizens and Minority Rights” (Geneva (Switzerland), 16 June 2006): Mr Čilevičs (Latvia, SOC);
 - **Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (Chairperson: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): heard a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 27 June 2006;
 - **Alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states:** in view of paragraph 21 of Resolution 1507 (2006), instructed its Chairperson to follow up this resolution, and to present a work programme for this issue during its meeting in September 2006;
 - **Legal remedies for human rights violations in the North-Caucasus Region:** unanimously decided to ask its Chairperson to write to the President of the Assembly to ask the Bureau to modify the reference of this motion (Reference No 3243 - Doc 10916) in order that it be sent to AS/Jur for report, and to send a copy of this letter to all the members of the Committee and to the Chairpersons of national delegations;
 - **With respect to the "Pasat Case"** (Rapporteur: Mrs Hajiyeva, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD): took note of information provided by the Rapporteur concerning a possible meeting between Mr Pasat and the President of the Assembly on the occasion of the latter's forthcoming visit to Moldova.
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- **on 29 June 2006 at 8 h 30**, with Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Member states' duty to cooperate with the European Court of Human Rights** (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Vincent Berger, Jurisconsult, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights
 - Ms Karinna Moskalenko, Director of the Center for International Legal Protection, ICJ Commissioner for the Russian Federation (Moscow)
 - Professor Bill Bowring, European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC) (London)
 - Dr Francesco Crisafulli, Agent of the Italian Government to the European Court of Human Rights
 - **The rights of national minorities in Latvia** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
 - **Precarious situation of national minorities in the Voivodina province of Serbia (and) Violation of the human rights of the Romanian ethnic minority in Serbia** (Rapporteur: Mr Herrmann, Germany, EPP/CD): authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Serbia on 26-28 September 2006;
 - **Next meetings:**
 - Nafplion (Greece), Friday 15 September 2006
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session (2-6 October 2006)
 - Paris, Monday 6 November 2006 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 27 June 2006 with Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Harassment of Human Rights defenders Rena and Murad Sadaddinov (Azerbaijan):** asked its Chairperson to write to the Chairperson of the Delegation of Azerbaijan requesting information on this case, as well as on the state of health of Farhad Aliyev, former Minister for Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- **Council of Europe annual report on the state of human rights in Europe:** had a preliminary discussion on possibly ways of dealing with this question;
- **Co-operation with the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs:** invited its Chairperson to organise a joint meeting with this Subcommittee in Brussels;
- **Other business:** asked its Chairperson to write to the new General Prosecutor of the Russian Federation concerning the recent allegations by the International Helsinki Federation of an "illegal" prison in Grozny and a public summary execution at Stanitsa Nesterovskaya in Ingushetia;
- **Next meeting:** decided to meet just before the next plenary Committee meeting in September 2006.

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Isild Heurtin, Ugur Erdal

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