



9 October 2006
Synopsis No 2006/85

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

Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 2 to 5 October 2006

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

- on 2 October 2006 at 14 h, with Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC*): took position on the amendment tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Europe's interest in the continued economic development of Russia** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Germany, EPP/CD*): considered a report tabled by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, approved an opinion and six amendments to the draft recommendation, and asked its Rapporteur to present them to the Plenary Assembly.

- on 3 October 2006 at 8 h 30, with Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Marty, Switzerland, ALDE*): held an exchange of views with the President of the Assembly, took note of a joint Declaration by the President of the Assembly and the Rapporteur and asked the Rapporteur to go to Guantanamo Bay [subject to the authorisation of the Bureau];
 - **Video surveillance of public areas** (*Rapporteur: Mr Sharandin, Russia, EDG*):
 - held an exchange of views with Mr Paul Wille, Belgian Senator and Member of the Assembly
 - considered an introductory memorandum
 - decided to ask the Venice Commission to prepare an opinion on the question
 - decided, in view of the above, to ask the Bureau to prolong the Rapporteur's mandate;

- **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
 - *Inadmissibility of anti-Semitism in the social and political life of the Council of Europe member states* (for opinion): Mr Rudy Salles (France, ALDE)
 - *Women in prison* (for opinion): Mrs Angelika Graf (Germany, SOC);
- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:**
 - High level Conference of the Ministries of Justice and of the Interior: "Improving European co-operation in the criminal field" (Moscow, 9-10 November 2006): Mr Grebennikov (Russia, EDG)
 - Colloquy: "Protecting and supporting human rights defenders in Europe" (Strasbourg, 13-14 November 2006): Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) [*subject to his availability*]
 - First meeting of the Working Group of the Committee of Experts for the Improvement of Procedures for the Protection of Human Rights (GT-DH-PR) (Strasbourg, 11-12 December 2006): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)
 - Seminar on "International legal guarantees for the protection of national minorities and problems in their implementation, with a special focus on minority education" (Strasbourg, 18 October 2006) and meeting of the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) (Strasbourg, 19-20 October 2006): Mr Cilevics (Latvia, SOC).

- **on 3 October 2006 at 14 h**, with Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe member states*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Cilevics, Latvia, SOC*): took position on the amendment tabled to the draft recommendation and on an oral amendment;
 - ***The rights of national minorities in Latvia*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC*): after a preliminary general discussion, decided to postpone consideration of the draft report until the next meeting of the Committee;
 - **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:**
 - *Crans Montana Forum, 8th International Summit on Transnational Crime, Monaco, 31 October - 2 November 2006*: Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD)
 - *Meeting of GRECO, Strasbourg, 12-13 October 2006*: Mr Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC);
 - ***Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee***: took note of the reply from the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 1719 (2005) on forced disappearances and of the comments of the Rapporteur;
 - ***Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.***: considered written reports by the following representatives:
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") (Venice (Italy), 9-10 June 2006): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)
 - Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) (Strasbourg, 19-23 June 2006): Mr Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC)
 - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) (Rome (Italy), 6-7 July 2006): Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC).

- **on 5 October 2006 at 8 h 30**, with Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
- ***Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights*** (Chairperson: Mrs Bemelmans-Videc, Netherlands, EPP/CD):
 - heard a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 4 October 2006
 - took note that a motion was to be tabled with a view to amending paragraph 3.ii of Resolution 1366 (2004), as amended by Resolution 1426 (2005)
 - if the motion was tabled, asked its Chairperson to write to the President of the Assembly asking that the Committee be seized for report
 - in anticipation of this, appointed Mrs Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD) Rapporteur
 - took note of the appointment of Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) as a titular member of the Sub-Committee, replacing Mr Masi (San Marino, ALDE);
- ***Sub-Committee on Human Rights*** (Chairperson: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): in the absence of the Sub-Committee's Chairperson, heard a report by Mr Marty on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 4 October 2006;
- ***Composition of the Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities*** (Chairperson: Mr Cilevics, Latvia, SOC): took note of the appointment of Mr Ivan Popescu (Ukraine, SOC) as a member;
- ***Fair trial issues in criminal cases concerning espionage or divulging state secrets*** (Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD): confirmed its decision to request that this report be presented at a plenary session and asked its Chairperson to inform the Bureau accordingly;
- ***The United States of America and international Law*** (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): decided to invite an expert, Mr Philippe Sands, for a exchange of views with the Committee at its meeting in Paris on 6 November 2006;
- ***Next meetings:***
 - Paris, Monday 6 November 2006 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)
 - Paris, Monday 18 December 2006 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1st part-session (22-26 January 2007)

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) meeting in Strasbourg on 4 October 2006 at 14 h with Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Access to medical treatment for former Minister of Economic Development Farhad Aliyev (Azerbaijan)***: considered the reply received and information presented by the Chairperson of the parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan and invited him to ask his authorities if they would be prepared to allow Mr Aliyev's family to send for a foreign doctor of their choice to come and examine Mr Aliyev, at their own cost;
- ***Alleged summary execution in Ingushetia and secret prison in Grozny***: invited the Chairperson to ask the Russian authorities and the NGO "Memorial" for additional information;
- ***Alleged harassment of human rights defenders in Serbia***: asked its Chairperson to get more information on this matter from the Chairperson of the Serbian parliamentary delegation;
- ***Next meeting***: left it to the Chairperson to fix the date and place of the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 4 October 2006 at 14 h 30 with Mrs Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- considered the list of candidates in respect of Malta;
- held an exchange of views with the Chairperson of the Maltese parliamentary delegation;
- took note that a motion was to be tabled with a view to amending paragraph 3.ii of Resolution 1366 (2004), as amended by Resolution 1426 (2005);
- left it to the Chairperson to fix the date and place of the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 5 October 2006 at 9 h, with Mr Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Decriminalisation of defamation*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bartumeu Cassany, Andorra, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Mrs Bissera Zankova, Member of the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC) and with Mrs Deniz Akçay, Vice-Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH);
- ***Next meeting***: left it to the Chairperson to fix the date and place of the next meeting.

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Isild Heurtin, Stéphanie Poirel

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