

14 March 2007  
Synopsis No 2007/02

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 12 March 2007

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

- ***Appointment of rapporteurs:***

- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights – stock-taking and perspectives: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD)
- The need for a global consideration of human rights implications of Biometrics: Mrs Florentina Toma (Romania, SOC);

- ***State of human rights (and democracy) in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*):

- considered and approved a report;
- approved the “Human Rights” parts of a draft resolution and draft recommendation, as amended;

*In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, with Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ADLE, former Chairperson) in the Chair:*

- held a joint meeting with the Political Affairs Committee;
- then adopted a draft recommendation with a view to presenting it at the Assembly’s April 2007 part-session;

- ***Appointment of representatives of the Committee:***

- European Conference on “The respect of the rights of foreign minors in Europe and against their detention and forced removal” (Strasbourg, 14 March 2007): Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> European Conference of Judges, organised at the initiative of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) (Rome, 26-27 March 2007): Mr Andrea Manzella (Italy, SOC)
- Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) (Strasbourg, 10-13 April 2007): decided to ask to Mrs Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD) if she could represent the Committee

- Ad Hoc meeting of Chairs of relevant Council of Europe committees on terrorism (Strasbourg, 25 April 2007): Mr Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE)
- Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy, on the theme "Power and empowerment - the interdependence of democracy and human rights" (Stockholm/Sigtuna (Sweden), 13-15 June 2007): Mr Erol Aslan Cebeci (Turkey, PPE/DC), Mr Valery Grebennikov (Russian Federation, EDG), Mr Michel Hunault (France, EDG), Mr Andrea Manzella (Italy, SOC), Mrs Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD) (as members of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum);
- **Accession of the Republic of Montenegro to the Council of Europe** (Mr Erik Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered a report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee and considered and approved the opinion of the Committee;
- **The situation of the inhabitants of the Sovereign British Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia** (Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution, with a view to presenting them at the Standing Committee on 24 May 2007 in Belgrade;
- **Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights** (Rapporteur: Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc, Netherlands, EPP/CD): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution, with a view to presenting them at the Assembly's part-session of April 2007;
- **Improving selection procedures for CPT members** (Rapporteur: Mr Erol Aslan Cebeci, Turkey, EPP/CD): took position on the amendments proposed to the draft resolution;
- **Legal remedies for human rights violations in the North-Caucasus Region** (Rapporteur: Mr Paschal Mooney, Ireland, ALDE): in the absence of the Rapporteur, took note of an introductory memorandum and, on the proposal of the Rapporteur presented by the Chairperson, decided to invite the Russian delegation to submit to him the authorities' comments on the issues raised in this document, before 18 May 2007;
- **Non-ratification by the Russian Federation of Protocol No 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights**: took note that the Chairperson would go to Moscow with the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee on 2 and 3 April 2007, for meetings with Russian parliamentarians;
- **Report of the Group of Wise Persons on the efficiency of the European Court of Human Rights**: asked the Rapporteur on the implementation of the Third Summit Declaration and Action Plan, Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD) to prepare an information memorandum on the report of Wise Persons for the next meeting and decided to invite the new President of the Court, Mr Jean-Paul Costa, for an exchange of views on this subject at its next meeting;
- **Towards decriminalisation of defamation** (Rapporteur: Mr Jaume Bartumeu Cassany, Andorra, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Principle of the rule of law** (Rapporteur: Mr Erik Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism** (Chairperson: Mr Jaume Bartumeu Cassany, Andorra, SOC): heard a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 24 January 2007;
- **Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities** (Chairperson: Mr Boriss Cilevics, Latvia, SOC): heard a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 24 January 2007;

- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:** took note of written comments and oral explanations by the Rapporteur on the following reply:
  - Position of the Parliamentary Assembly as regards the Council of Europe member and observer states which have not abolished the death penalty: Mrs Renate Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD);
- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** took note of written reports on the following events:
  - 8th International Summit on Transnational Crime, organised by the Crans Montana Forum (Monaco, 31 October - 2 November 2006): Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD)
  - Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) (Strasbourg, 4-8 December 2006): Mr Jaume Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC)
  - European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") (Venice (Italy), 15-16 December 2006): Mrs Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (Germany, ALDE);
- **Other business:**
  - **Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities:** appointed Mr Vlad Cubreacov (Moldova, EPP/CD) member;
  - **Draft convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse:** subject to the reference of this draft Convention to the Committee for opinion, appointed Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) Rapporteur;
- **Next meetings:**
  - Strasbourg, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session of 2007 (16-20 April)
  - Paris, Monday 14 May 2007 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
  - Paris, Friday 8 June 2007 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*)
  - Strasbourg, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session of 2007 (25-29 June)

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Catherine Maffucci-Hugel,  
Isild Heurtin, Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann

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