



15 May 2007
Synopsis AS/Jur No 2007/04

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 14 May 2007

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 14 May 2007 with Mr Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Towards decriminalisation of defamation*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jaume Bartumeu Cassany, Andorra, SOC*): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, with a view to presenting them at the October 2007 part-session;
- ***Ratification by the Russian Federation of Protocol No 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights***: regretted that the Russian Duma Delegation had not been able to accept its invitation to an exchange of views and renewed the invitation for its meeting on 8 June 2007;
- ***Implementation of the Third Summit Declaration and Action Plan*** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Vidéc, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): decided to ask the Bureau to extend the validity of the reference until the end of 2007;
- ***Gökçeada/İmbros and Bozcaada/Tenedos*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and decided to make it public;
- ***Abuse of the criminal justice system in Belarus*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum and decided to ask the Bureau's authorisation for the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Minsk;
- ***Request for an investigation to clarify the allegedly suspicious death of former President Boris Trajkovski of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"***: instructed Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) to carry out an on-the-spot visit in order to obtain additional information and to submit a memorandum, in order that the Committee may respond to the Bureau's request;
- ***National selection procedures for candidates for the European Court of Human Rights*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered an introductory memorandum and authorised the Rapporteur to send a questionnaire on this subject to the national delegations, for reply by 7 September 2007;

- **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
 - The situation of Roma in Europe and relevant activities of the Council of Europe: Mr Jozsef Berenyi (Slovakia, EPP/CD)
 - Draft Convention of the Council of Europe on the adoption of children (revised): Mr Jaume Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC)
 - Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly (for opinion): Mr Rafael Huseynov (Azerbaijan, ALDE)
 - Gender equality principles in the Parliamentary Assembly's internal work, decision-making mechanisms and election procedures (for opinion): Mrs Ingrida Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD);
- **Motion for a resolution on the ban of cluster munitions:** decided to ask the Bureau that the motion be referred to the Committee for report, instead of for information;
- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:**
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) (1-2 June 2007): Mrs Herta Däubler-Gmelin (Germany, SOC);
- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** took note of a written report on the following event:
 - Ad Hoc meeting of Chairs of relevant Council of Europe committees on terrorism and the Conference "Why terrorism?" (Strasbourg, 25-26 April 2007): Mr Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE)
- **Motion for a resolution "Blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion":** decided to ask the Bureau that the Committee be seized for opinion on this matter;
- **Elections to the UN Human Rights Council: candidature of Belarus:** adopted a public statement;
- **UN Security Council and European Union black lists (Rapporteur: Mr Dick Marty, Switzerland, ALDE):** decided to invite a witness to take part in the hearing to be held at its meeting on 28 June 2007;
- **Next meetings:**
 - Paris, Friday 8 June 2007 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session of 2007 (25-29 June)
 - Paris, Tuesday 11 September 2007 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session of 2007 (1-5 October)

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, 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