

8 October 2007  
Synopsis AS/Jur No 2007/08

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 1 to 4 October 2007

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

- **1 October 2007 at 14 h**, with Mr Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Member states' duty to co-operate with the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): considered and approved an addendum to the report;
  - **Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights** (*Chairperson: Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc, Netherlands, EPP/CD*):
    - heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meetings held in Paris on 10-12 and 17-18 September 2007;
    - decided to submit a derogation request to the Bureau that this *ad hoc* sub-committee become a permanent sub-committee of the Committee;
  - **The situation of national minorities in Vojvodina and of the Romanian ethnic minority in Serbia** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jürgen Herrmann, Germany, EPP/CD*): decided to ask the bureau for the mandate to be extended until 31 January 2008;
  - **The "Pasat case"** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Gultakin Hajiyeva, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD*): considered a supplementary information note and, in view of the fact that Mr Pasat had been released, was of the opinion that it was no longer appropriate to continue the enquiry;
  - **Developments as regards the future status of Kosovo** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur.

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- **2 October 2007 at 8 h 30**, with Mr Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Member states' duty to co-operate with the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): took position on an amendment to the draft resolution;
  - **UN Security Council and European Union black lists** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dick Marty, Switzerland, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
  - **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:**
    - 6th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Issues Relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) (Strasbourg, 17-19 October 2007): Mr Boriss Cilevics (Latvia, SOC)
    - Conference on durable solutions for Roma refugees, IDPs and returnees in the Balkans (Belgrade (Serbia), 29-30 October 2007): Mr József Bérenyi (Slovakia, EPP/CD)
    - 2007 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations (New York (United States of America), 20-21 November 2007): left it to its Chairperson to appoint a representative;
  - **Appointment of rapporteurs:** took note of the modification in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure following the adoption of Resolution 1554 (2007) on conflict of interest, and appointed the following rapporteurs:
    - *Judicial corruption*: Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD)
    - *Ban on cluster munitions* (for opinion): Mr Holger Haibach (Germany, EPP/CD);
  - **Accession of the European Union/European Community to the European Convention on Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): decided to make public all the Committee documents on this subject, including the statements made by the experts at the hearing on 11 September 2007 and the minutes of that hearing;
  - **Membership of sub-committees:** appointed:
    - Mr John Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC) titular member of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights
    - Mr Raffi Hovannisian (Armenia, EPP/CD) alternate member of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights
    - Mr Raffi Hovannisian (Armenia, EPP/CD) titular member of the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism.

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- **2 October 2007 at 14 h**, with Mr Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Gender equality principles in the Parliamentary Assembly** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Ingrida Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD*): considered a report presented by the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities and considered and approved the opinion of the Committee.

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- **3 October 2007 at 14 h**, with Mr Erik Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Towards decriminalisation of defamation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jaume Bartumeu Cassany, Andorra, SOC*): took position on an amendment to the draft recommendation.

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- **4 October 2007 at 8 h 30**, with Mr Erik Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (Chairperson: Mr Paschal Mooney, Ireland, ALDE): heard a report by Mr Erik Jurgens on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 3 October 2007 and endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning the lists of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Andorra, Armenia, Finland, Poland, Romania, and the Russian Federation;
  - **Request for an investigation to clarify the allegedly suspicious death of former President Boris Trajkovski of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"** (Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC): considered an information note containing recommendations on the follow up to be given to this matter, endorsed those recommendations and decided to transmit the note to the Assembly's Bureau;
  - **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights** (Rapporteur: Mr Erik Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): instructed the Chairperson of the Committee to write to the Chairpersons of the Russian and Turkish Delegations expressing its disappointment that they had been unable to attend the present meeting and decided to invite them again to the next meeting;
  - **Follow up to the current affairs debate "The looming crisis facing the European Court of Human Rights: urgent action needed"**: asked the Bureau to seize the Committee on this issue as a matter of priority and decided to invite experts to its meeting in Venice, subject to the Bureau's decision on this request;
  - **Hearings in Bratislava, 22 November 2007**: authorised the Chairpersons of the Sub-Committees on Rights of Minorities and on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism to invite experts to the hearings;
  - **Gökçeada/İmbros and Bozcaada/Ténédos** (Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC): decided to ask the Bureau to extend the mandate until 27 July 2008;
  - **Next meetings:**
    - Plenary Committee:*
      - Paris, Monday 12 November 2007 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
      - Venice (Italy), 13-14 December 2007 (including a joint meeting with the Enlarged Bureau of the Venice Commission on 14 December)
      - Strasbourg, during the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the 2008 session (21-25 January)
    - Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities:*
      - Bratislava (Slovakia), Thursday 22 November 2007 (9 h - 12 h 30) (Hearing on "The situation of Roma in Europe")
    - Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism:*
      - Bratislava (Slovakia), Thursday 22 November 2007 (14 h - 17 h 30) (Hearing on "The fight against terrorism and the protection of human rights: progress and shortcomings")
    - Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:*
      - Paris, Monday 12 November 2007 (15 h 30 - 19 h) (Council of Europe Office)
      - Paris, Monday 17 December 2007 (16 h - 19 h) (to be confirmed)
      - Paris, Tuesday 18 December 2007 (9 h - 19 h) (to be confirmed)

**The Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 3 October 2007 with Mr Paschal Mooney (Ireland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)**: considered and approved its recommendations for the lists of candidates to the CPT in respect of Andorra, Armenia, Finland, Poland, Romania, and the Russian Federation;
- **Next meeting:**
  - Lisbon (Portugal), Monday 8 (16 h – 18 h) and Tuesday 9 October 2007 (on the occasion of the Conference "Europe against the death penalty").

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Catherine Maffucci-Hugel, 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