

5 June 2008
Synopsis AS/Jur No 2008/04

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 2 June 2008

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 2 June 2008 with Mr Christos Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), 1st Vice-Chairperson, and Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC), 2nd Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Gökçeada/Imbros and Bozcaada/Tenedos: preserving the bicultural character of the two Turkish islands as a model for cooperation between Turkey and Greece in the interest of the people concerned** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution with a view to presenting them at the Assembly's June 2008 part-session;
- **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): considered and declassified an introductory memorandum and authorised the Rapporteur to request, in writing, additional information from the Chairpersons of the Assembly national delegations of the eleven countries where specific problems remain;
- **Ratification by the Russian Federation of Protocol No 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights:**
 - regretted the absence of Mr Pavel Krasheninnikov, Chairperson of the State Duma's Committee on Civil, Criminal, Arbitration and Procedural Legislation, with whom it was to hold an exchange of views;
 - debated the issue with the members of the Russian delegation; and
 - authorised the Chairperson of the Committee to go to Moscow in order to meet the members of the State Duma's Committee on Civil, Criminal, Arbitration and Procedural Legislation;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
 - *The need to avoid duplication of the work of the Council of Europe by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights*: Mr Boris Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC)
 - *Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights*: Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD)
 - *The protection of witnesses as a cornerstone for justice and reconciliation in the Balkans*: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD)
 - *Women in prison (for opinion)*: Mrs Gultakin Hajiyeva (Azerbaijan, EPP/CD)
 - *Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force (for opinion)*: Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD)

- ***Freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in Turkey and for Muslim minorities in Thrace (Western Greece)*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michel Hunault, France, EDG*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Turkey on 30-31 January 2008;
- ***Appointment of representatives of the Committee:***
 - Conference of Prosecutors General of Europe on the theme "The Role of the public prosecution in the protection of human rights and public interests outside the criminal law field" (St Petersburg (Russian Federation), 2-3 July 2008): Mr Michel Hunault (France, EDG);
 - European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) (Strasbourg, 2-6 June 2008): left it to the Secretariat to find a volunteer;
- ***Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:*** heard a report by the following representative:
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission" (Venice, 14-15 March 2008): Mr Christos Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD)
- ***National selection procedures for candidates for the European Court of Human Rights*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, GDE*):
 - held a hearing with the participation of the following experts:
 - Mr Tim Koopmans, former Judge on the European Court of Justice, and former Advocate General at the Dutch Supreme Court
 - Mr Edward Adams, Head of the Human Rights Division, United Kingdom Ministry of Justice
 - Mr Jeremy McBride, President of the NGO Interights, (United Kingdom)
 - Mrs Elisabeth Palm, former Swedish judge on the European Court of Human Rights and currently President of the Council of Europe's Administrative Tribunal
 - decided to change the title of the report as follows: "*Nomination of candidates and election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights*";
- ***Next meetings:***

Plenary meeting:

 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session of 2008 (23-27 June)
 - Paris, Tuesday 9 September 2008 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session of 2008 (29 September - 3 October)
 - Moscow (Russian Federation), Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 November 2008 (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau*)

Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:

 - Strasbourg, Sunday 22 June 2008, 16 h – 18 h (Palais de l'Europe) (*to be confirmed*)

Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities:

 - Strasbourg, Thursday 26 June 2008, at 8 h 30 (Palais de l'Europe)

Sub-Committee on Human Rights:

 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session of 2008 (23-27 June)

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, 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